

# LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Hammersmith CHRONICLE



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Thursday, January 7th 2016

## £2 million boost for transport and town centres

BY JACK DIXON

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MORE than £2 million has been set aside to improve town centres and transport services in Hammersmith and Fulham.

The New Year cash boost is being funded by Transport for London and the Mayor's Office in a bid to drive through key projects.

The money will be put towards making roads safer, improving public spaces and promoting walkways and cycle routes.

A total of £2.3 million will be spent in the borough, including £500,000 towards the introduction of 20mph speed limits on all residential roads.

The funding forms part of a £148

million package for improvement schemes across the capital in 2016/17.

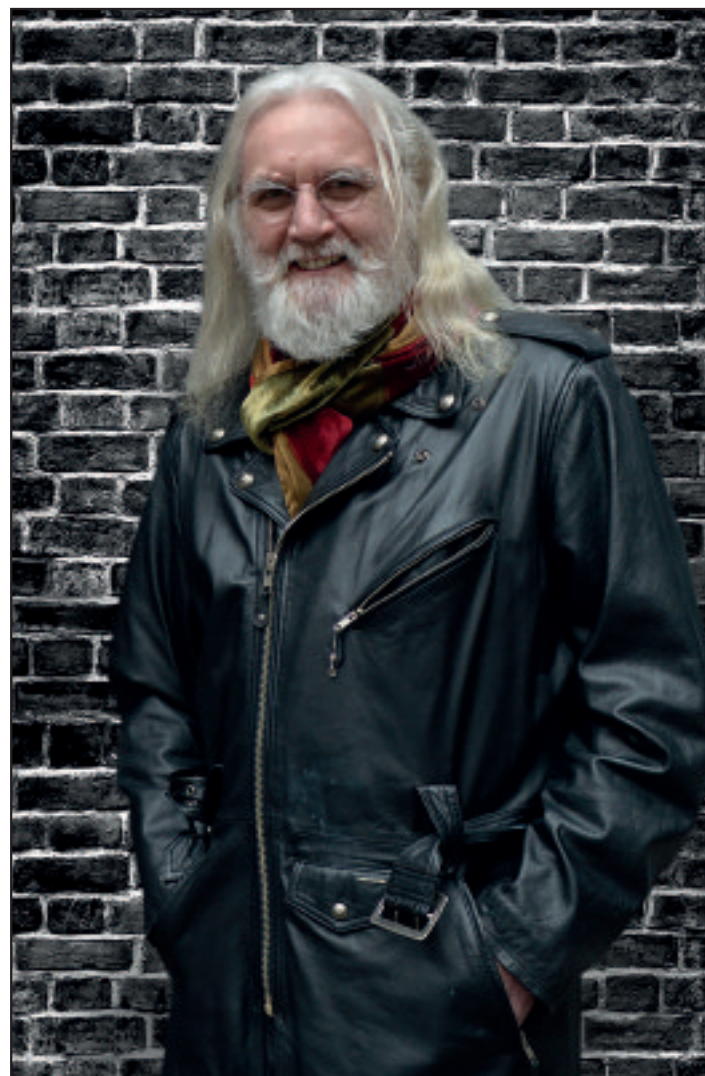
Mike Brown, London's transport commissioner, said the investment would bring "real improvements" for communities across west London over the coming year.

"Working with west London boroughs, hundreds of transport projects will be delivered that will benefit pedestrians and road users, through safer streets and improved public squares and shopping areas.

"These improvements will help transform communities and boost the local economy."

TfL has come forward with the cash to cover the cost of transport projects set out in Hammersmith and Fulham's local implementation plan – detailed proposals setting out how projects will be introduced to support the

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■ **GREAT SCOT:** Comedian and actor Billy Connolly has defied the challenges posed by prostate cancer and Parkinson's disease to bring his High Horse tour south for an 11-night run at Hammersmith Apollo, beginning tonight, Thursday, January 7. The 72-year-old Scottish entertainer, named the greatest stand-up ever in polls on Channel 4 in 2007 and 2010 and Channel 5 in 2013, has already taken the tour round Scotland and Canada. He underwent surgery for prostate cancer in 2013, and announced he was receiving treatment for Parkinson's disease in the same year.

SEE CAPITAL NIGHTS, PAGE 14

## Town Hall plan refused

COUNCILLORS have refused to grant planning permission for a redevelopment of Fulham Town Hall.

Dory Ventures, the American company that owns the building, had applied to demolish it and construct a new five-storey building in its place. The application also included plans for retail and restaurant space as well as 18 new apartments.

However, Hammersmith and Fulham council rejected the application, suggesting that it would cause "harm to the character, appearance and setting" of the building and the Walham Green Conservation Area.

## Urgent call to help refugees

TRAID charity shops in Hammersmith and Shepherd's Bush are collecting urgently needed supplies for Syrian refugees.

The charity is encouraging residents to drop off donations at its stores in the borough and across London.

Donations of socks, underwear, trousers, jackets, blankets, sleeping bags and other items will be sent to the Starfish Foundation to help refugees arriving in Greece.

Maria Chenoweth-Casey, TRAIID's chief executive, said her staff are pleased to be able to support the Starfish Foundation volunteers.

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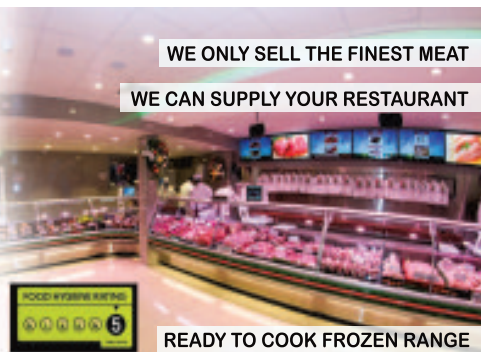
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# Council tax cut but services protected

THE Mayor of London has proposed to cut his share of the council tax in a draft budget that fulfils his manifesto commitment to reduce the mayoral share of Londoners' council tax bills by ten per cent during his second term in office.

If Boris Johnson's Budget is approved in February he will have saved a typical Band D council taxpayer around £500 over his eight years as mayor.

In his final budget as mayor, Mr Johnson is proposing to reduce his share of the council tax bill by 6.4 per cent next year, a reduction of £19 to £276 for Band D taxpayers. The budget also includes plans to protect police officer numbers and key transport improvements while supporting the construction of a record number of new homes and creating thousands of new jobs.

Mr Johnson, said: "This budget drives down council tax while protecting key services for Londoners. It is a plan that continues to look after the poorest and neediest and which creates new jobs and builds new homes. Not a penny will be squandered as we deliver the services and the improvements



FROM THE  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

needed. It is the right plan for London and the right plan for everyone with a stake in our great city."

The mayor's draft 2016/2017 budget covers the entire Greater London Authority Group – including Transport for London, the London Legacy Development Corporation, the Metropolitan Police service and the London Fire Brigade. Its plans include:

- The continued delivery of around £418m of funding that is being used to support economic regeneration in the capital.

- The protection of police officer numbers at around 32,000 including a reinvigoration of neighbourhood policing

by getting 2,600 extra officers into local neighbourhoods. Plus investment in the latest digital technologies such as body worn cameras.

- Investment in upgrading the Tube network including £250m on making more stations step free, the delivery of a northern Line extension to Nine Elms and Battersea and continued support for the delivery of Crossrail, which will increase London's rail capacity by ten per cent.

- A £4bn investment on London's roads. £913m is due to be spent on cycling improvements, £200m has been earmarked for bus priority schemes and 800 New Routemaster buses will be delivered by 2016.

- Continuing the increase in the supply of affordable homes and identifying better ways of doing so with a target of delivering 100,000 affordable homes over the Mayor's eight years in office.

- Ensuring the London Fire Brigade can continue to meet their response time targets.

- The permanent re-opening of the former Olympic Stadium in the summer of 2016 and support for the hosting of major sports events across all of the 2102 legacy venues including the Eu-

ropean Aquatics Championships. Plus the continued development of Olympicopolis, a world class new cultural, scientific and educational centre for London at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

- Support for the new Mayoral Development Corporation for Old Oak and Park Royal, a once in a lifetime regeneration opportunity for that part of west London which will deliver thousands of new jobs and homes.

- A continued focus on the creation of apprenticeships for young Londoners, particularly in the construction sector where demand is increasing.

A consultation document that sets out the Mayor's proposals has now been made available on the Greater London Authority website at: [www.london.gov.uk/about-us/greater-london-authority-gla/spending-money-wisely/mayors-budget](http://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/greater-london-authority-gla/spending-money-wisely/mayors-budget)

Members of the public have until January 12 to comment on the draft budget, which is due to be considered by the London Assembly on 27 January and 22 February.

- The Mayor of London's 2016-17 draft Council Tax requirement is £756.5m – this being the total sum

forecast to be collected from Londoners to fund GLA services. Under the proposal the total GLA precept will be reduced from £295 to £276 a year (Band D household) for residents of the 32 boroughs – a reduction of £19 or 6.4%. The Band D precept for taxpayers within the Corporation of London area – which has its own police force – is provisionally set at £69.21.

- The mayor's proposed council tax precept comprises £566.5m to support the Metropolitan Police service, £138m for the London Fire Brigade and £62m for other services such as transport, the Olympic precept and the GLA itself.

- The mayor's draft budget consists of allocations for the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (Metropolitan Police), Transport for London, the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (London Fire Brigade), the London Legacy Development Company (Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park), the new Old Oak Common and Park Royal Development Corporation, the core Greater London Authority and the London Assembly.

- The proposed total budget for the GLA Group for 2016-17 is £16.2 billion.



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(Established 1857)

### Kensington & Chelsea News

(Established 1857 & 1869)

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## NEW YEAR'S DAY PARADE

LWN



■ **HIGH THERE:** A giant 40ft inflatable attracts attention in Westminster during the London New Year's Day Parade, the annual event which raises much needed funds for charities chosen by all of the London boroughs. The event attracted massive crowds to mark the start of 2016. Marching bands, cheerleaders and performers travelled from the United States of America to take part in the parade alongside participants from the UK, including world renowned illusionist from Winnipeg, Canada Darcy Oake, a Britain's Got Talent finalist who performed death defying escapology in Whitehall.

Images © Matt Sprake Photography (07770 365302) www.mattsprake.co.uk



■ **PLAYING THE BLUES:** A musician in Westminster during preparations for the London New Year's Day Parade. Below: American cheerleaders enjoy the big day.



■ **HIGH THERE:** Performers from the parade perform in London's Trafalgar Square – above and right – ahead of the annual free public event on Friday which started from the Ritz Hotel.



# Dementia charity's new year action call

BY GEOFF BAKER

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THE Alzheimer's Society is calling on Londoners to spend more time with loved ones with dementia after a survey revealed that many believe there is no point in staying in touch.

The society is making the appeal after discovering that 42 per cent of Londoners mistakenly think that people with dementia don't benefit much from seeing loved ones they no longer recognise.

But the Alzheimer's Society says people with dementia benefit considerably from regular visits even if they do not know who is visiting them.

"As the condition progresses, many people with dementia may find it difficult to recognise faces of friends and family members, but they will still hold an 'emotional memory' which means they continue to feel happy long after a visit or experience that they may have

forgotten," said a spokesman.

"Spending time with loved ones is important because it can stimulate feelings of familiarity, happiness, comfort and security. Staying connected and taking part in activities helps a person with dementia feel less isolated."

The survey of people affected by dementia found that more than half (54 per cent) of people with the condition were no longer taking part in any or hardly any social activities. But they said that what would help them most was to stay connected is seeing family and friends more often, and having someone to help them take part in activities and hobbies.

"Despite good intentions to stay in touch with a loved one with dementia, the lack of awareness of how important emotional memory is may mean that in their busy lives, people don't always follow up on their intentions and over half of those living with dementia are left feeling isolated," said the spokesman.

Tim McLachlan, Operations Direc-

tor for Greater London at Alzheimer's Society, said: "After spending time with friends and family over the festive period, New Year can be a bleak and lonely time for people with dementia and their carers. It's so important for people with dementia to feel connected throughout the year."

"Spending time with loved ones and taking part in meaningful activities can have a powerful and positive impact, even if they have difficulty remembering the event itself. We're urging people to get in touch with us to find out how we can help you stay connected through our local support services across London."

## What is dementia?

THE word dementia describes a group of symptoms that may include memory loss, difficulties with thinking, problem-solving or language, and sometimes changes in mood or behaviour.

These changes are often small to start with, but for someone with dementia they have become bad enough

to affect daily life.

■ Dementia isn't a natural part of ageing. It occurs when the brain is affected by a disease.

■ There are many known causes of dementia – probably more than 100. The most common types are Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. Some people have a combination of these, known as mixed dementia.

■ It is estimated that there were around 850,000 people in the UK with dementia in 2015.

■ The chance of developing dementia increases significantly with age. One in 14 people over 65 years of age, and one in six people over 80, has dementia. It is more common among women than men.

■ More than 40,000 younger people (under the age of 65) in the UK have dementia. This is called early-onset or young-onset dementia.

■ Diagnosing dementia is often difficult, particularly in the early stages. The GP is the first person to consult. The GP may then refer the person

being diagnosed to a specialist such as a consultant.

■ Assessments can include conversations with the person being diagnosed and those close to them, a physical examination, memory tests and/or brain scans.

■ The Mini Mental State Examination (MMSE) is the most commonly used test for complaints of memory problems or when a diagnosis of dementia is being considered.

■ Becoming forgetful does not necessarily mean that you have dementia. Many of us notice that our memory becomes less reliable as we get older. It can also be a symptom of stress or depression. In rare cases, dementia-like symptoms can be caused by vitamin deficiencies or a brain tumour.

■ Even if the diagnosis is dementia, there is lots that can be done after a diagnosis to support someone to live well with the condition.

■ Some of the first signs of Alzheimer's include lapses in memory and problems finding the right words.



# Angry residents oppose plans for Nine Elms Bridge

BY GEOFF BAKER

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FEWER than two per cent of the residents of Pimlico are in favour of the much-opposed Nine Elms Bridge, which could turn the quiet area into a cycling track for more than 60,000 riders every week.

More than 200 people packed a meeting at St George's Square of the South Westminster Residents Against Nine Elms Bridge and most of them blasted the proposed plan to build the bridge that will cost Londoners £100 million.

When there was a call for a show of hands of those who wanted the bridge, only two hands went up.

Peter York, chairman of the anti-bridge campaign, said the crossing "has nothing to do with Londoners, but clearly is a development for foreign investors and global elites, who are using Nine Elms as investments".

Mr York pointed out that the meeting in St Saviours Hall had been snubbed by key players in the project; Wandsworth Council leader Ravi Govindia, the bridge architects, the mayoral candidates and the Chairman of the Mayor's Bridge Design committee had all been invited, and none were able to attend.

St George's Square resident, businessman Tony Hambro spoke of "the ruination of the quiet residential Pimlico Oasis with unavoidable damage to Pimlico Gardens' trees and lawns".

Mr Hambro warned that the bridge would turn St George's Square into "a 9,000-a-day cycle track, all for the benefit of foreign developers and the new US Embassy, and without consultation of Pimlico residents".

He added that Transport for London's feasibility study and press release implied that the cost to Londoners would eventually be about £100m. TfL's estimate of journey time savings worth precisely £91.5m was, he said, "deceitful rubbish".

"The bridge makes no economic sense, and if its aim is to encourage exercise, then surely it would be better to cycle or walk a bit further using existing bridges?" said Mr Hambro.

Battersea architect Keith Garner said Wandsworth Council had made a poor case for this bridge, "because the new Nine Elms development does not contain any major new attractions such as a new museum or gallery, sporting facility, or university department, which would give Pimlico residents an incentive to use the bridge".

"All Ravi Govindia of Wandsworth can offer is the chance to use the new Waitrose," said Mr Garner.

Westminster councillor Angela Harvey told the meeting that a public inquiry into the plan for the bridge will start on January 18 at the Town Hall and urged all residents to express the huge local opposition to the scheme as Wandsworth Council has still to submit a planning application and technical and environmental analysis report.

The meeting also heard from Lise Cox, who had been one of the few chosen for a Residents' Review Panel by Wandsworth consultants Colander Associates.

She described the "totally irregular procedures", the issuing of a gagging order under "the fallacious excuse of EU procurement regulations", meetings cancelled, and how she was then disinvited when she refused to sign the order. She described the process of consultation as "a farce".

A trustee of the Boating Base described how there had been no consultation from the developers, and how the bridge plans were vague. He said it was clear that the base will be damaged and the design will affect the very strong tidal flow, endangering children in their boats.

Millie Esposito introduced herself as a representative of Lambeth residents, as Chair of the Heman's Estate.

"They are all opposed to the bridge, and have not been consulted," she said. "Our estates do not want our community and privacy invaded by streams of bridge users channelling their way through."

Residents also deplored the consequential loss of Pimlico Gardens, with John Gibson's 1836 marble statue of William Huskisson MP, the first UK railway fatality, and the 1915 Superintendent's House, along with the dog park in St George's Square.

This, they said, "would be a crime against Pimlico and its heritage".



■ **CROSS PURPOSES:** One of the competing designs for the proposed Nine Elms Bridge.

## Leading teams give 'unity' kids a chance

FROM PAGE 1

top teams in the world."

Football For Unity began last year when Dr Talwar set up the scheme to encourage teenagers at risk to Islamist radicalisation and gang culture to take up football. Through the game children and young people of different faiths, ethnicities and cultures are brought together as one united British community.

Since starting in April with 10 players, the scheme has exploded into London's new teen sensation – driven by avid enthusiasm on social media, Football For Unity now has more than 1,400 players aged 10-17 who come from all over London to train three times a week in Southall. The Football For Unity scheme has won backing from world leaders including President Obama, Prime Minister David Cameron, Pope Francis and soccer idol Diego Maradona, all of whom want to see the youth-unifying scheme rolled out across the UK and around the world.

Now with leading international teams joining the project, organisers say there are great opportunities ahead for London teenagers.

"I am 100 per cent certain



■ **TOP TEAM:** England manager Roy Hodgson and FA chairman Greg Dyke support Football For Unity founders Dr Shamender Talwar and Anna Prior.

that some of our players will now find a future with some of the world's best clubs," said Dr Talwar. "I'm delighted that through our co-founder Marcus Faraji and the club's director general Herman Robles Gonzalez, Atletico Madrid has launched the trials programme and I'm thrilled to now be in talks with the other top sides about them joining too."

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our youngsters, we are hunting talent among kids who

never thought that they ever had a chance. This is making dreams come true and giving hope to our young players – one day some of them may be playing in the World Cup."

Following its huge success of in London, the scheme is now going nationwide with Football For Unity projects starting soon in Cardiff, Glasgow, Birmingham, Bradford and Bristol.

To learn more about the scheme, go to [www.footballforunity.org](http://www.footballforunity.org)

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## NEW YEAR HONOURS

LWN

# Salute unsung Londoners who truly deserve nation's thanks

BY GEOFF BAKER  
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FAR from the great who are now embroiled in the political row over the claims of "cronyism" in the New Year's Honours are the good, Londoners who have been recognised with awards for doing more than their job – like Carmel McConnell, saviour of the capital's hungry children.

The founder of Holborn-based Magic Breakfast, which delivers free healthy breakfasts to schoolchildren, has received the MBE for her services to school food.

In announcing her award, the Government said: "In 2000, while researching a book she became aware of the growing problem of child poverty and child hunger in the UK. By July 2015, over 3 million breakfasts had been delivered by the charity, and opportunities secured to raise the profile of child hunger in the morning. In 2001 she launched the pilot of the Magic Sandwich Project which involved bagels and cereals to five schools in Hackney and her personally delivering 700 breakfasts every week. By 2010 she expanded the charity from London to seven cities across the country. By 2013, the charity was in 250 schools, giving over 8,000 children a healthy breakfast and delivered over 6 million breakfasts since it first began. The charity is set to reach a further 184 schools nationally."

The BEM is awarded to another big-hearted charity worker, 83-year-old Mrs Nousha Pakpour-Samari, for services to the Ladies Creative Centre of Ealing and the West London community.

The Government said: "Her dedication to charity work started by supporting homeless people within the Borough of Ealing by providing both food and Shelter at the Caspian Hostel which she runs."

"In 1990 she set up the Ladies Creative Centre (LCC), a charity which has been focused on women within the local community, promoting diversity, inclusion and empowerment as well as offering classes such as English Language, Needlecraft, Cookery, Hair and Beauty, Arts and Crafts."

"The LCC has had great success in giving local people confidence and a supportive environment in which they can flourish. She inaugurated an annual International Creative Day in 2006 where members exchange ideas based on 'Unity in Diversity' which is the motto of LCC. In 2007 she founded the West London Dolls House Museum, which is visited repeatedly by large number families and local primary schools. She is also a stalwart of the Mayor of Ealing's Charity Committee. She regularly organises fund raising events including a Knitwear Fashion and Arts and Crafts Shows."

The Chair of Kensington & Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation (KCTMO), Fay Edwards, has received the BEM for her services to the community in Kensington and Chelsea.

Fay was elected to the board of Kensington & Chelsea TMO in 2010. Its role is to provide strategic direction for the organisation. With 10,000 homes KCTMO is one of the largest resident-led tenant management organisations in England, where residents used their right to manage their own homes.

The company also manages its asset investment and works in partnership with the local council to deliver a shared vision of providing the best housing and communities in the country. The role of chair means that she has a leading role in a range of events from the annual residents' conference and AGM to being the TMO's representative on the DCLG's Tenants Leading Change project. She has invested substantial time and energy to the role, giving the Board a bigger profile and encouraging other people to take part in the company.

She said: "I'm quite amazed and honoured to receive this award. It's been an absolute pleasure to serve on the Board of KCTMO, which I have chaired since 2012, and I have enjoyed every minute of it. The TMO plays a very important part in the life of the whole community and I'm proud to represent it, doing everything I can in the interest of our residents."

KCTMO's chief executive Robert Black added: "I'm delighted that Fay has received this much deserved honour. Under her leadership the Board has become more strategic and representative of the community, gaining the respect of both residents and the local council. As a result there has been increase in overall resident satisfaction with the company; increased attendance at the AGM; and more residents voting for TMO's continued management of the council's homes. We couldn't be more pleased for her."

Sir Roy Strong, the former legend of the Victoria and Albert Museum, has received the highest award and has been made a Companion of Honour.

The Government said: "Sir Roy Strong has made an outstanding contribution to British cultural life. The youngest ever director of the National Portrait Gallery, he transformed its conservative image."

"Also the youngest director of the V&A, his exhibitions on the destruction of the country house, the future of our churches and a celebration of British gardening significantly boosted the conservationist agenda over the last forty years. He has continued to write extensively on history, culture and garden design; the garden he created in Herefordshire has been described as one of the most innovative formal gardens of the last fifty years. He has also served for 15 years as High Bailiff and Searcher of the Sanctuary at Westminster Abbey."

Ms Marine Hanson has won the MBE for services to young people and survivors of abuse in Wandsworth.

The Government said: "In 2004 she turned her back on a successful career as an international make-up and beauty therapist to establish a charity to help the unemployed and abused in the Wandsworth area of London."

"Her charity STORM (Support, Trust, Opportunity, Rebuilding, Motivation)



■ HONOURED: Rekha Mehr Baker, main picture, receives the MBE for services to enterprise. Inset, left to right: Agatha Kalisperas BEM, Carmel McConnell MBE, Fay Edwards BEM, Sir Roy Strong Companion of Honour.

has helped hundreds of people to rebuild their lives. The organisation helps single parents by providing free classes in numeracy and literacy, a job shop and a help line to get them back to work.

"She also helps new immigrants to find work and provides similar support for victims of domestic violence. Gang culture is her biggest concern so she provides an initiative to encourage young people to get their lives back on track. Having seen the importance of her work in the area Wandsworth Council have given larger premises so that they can expand their operation. She has also established an annual Peace Concert which is sponsored by Wandsworth Police as it strives to fight gang culture. Her work in the borough has led her to wanting to do more for the community. In May 2014 she was elected as a local councillor and she has been able to bring her experience from STORM to help the council in its decision making."

Fulham-based Rekha Mehr Baker receives the MBE for services to enterprise.

The Government said: "She became an entrepreneur when her passion for

baking was reignited after a trip to India in 2010. She set up Pistachio Rose, a small, Fulham-based, Indian-inspired bakery, creating high-end authentic cakes and desserts. She took the best of British biscuits and cakes and delicately infused them with quintessential Indian flavours. By 2012 she was hailed as one of the top five biscuit makers in London, which led to her launching a range of biscuits and cakes in Fortnum and Mason and exhibiting at the Good Food Show."

"She is a key advocate of the benefits of mentoring, supporting the British Bankers Association's Mentorsme project, giving her the confidence to make her own decisions and set realistic timeframes. She worked closely with the Government's Women's Business Council (WBC) drawing on her expert knowledge while drafting the WBC Report. She has offered her time and products to support charities such as Action Against Hunger to provide children with the nutrition and care they need, and Find Your Feet, helping families build a future free from poverty in Africa and Asia."

The BEM has been awarded to 66-

year-old Ms Jane Pettigrew for a lifetime of service to tea production.

The Government said: "For over 30 years she has been a leading authority on tea, tea production and tea history. She started her working life as a teacher and later became proprietor of Tea Time Tea Shop in Clapham between 1983-1989."

"During her first year she wrote a recipe book called Tea Time which has been re-released by the National Trust. The success of her book brought her to the attention of several hotels who hired her as a consultant to put a new face on their traditional afternoon tea service."

"Her work has helped many other English tea companies either directly or indirectly. Since 1995 she has consistently contributed to *Tea and Coffee World Journal* and other periodicals. She also serves as contributing editor for *Teatime* magazine, the world's largest circulating consumer magazine dedicated to the tea culture. Her training and advice has inspired and regenerated much of the UK tea industry. She has been involved with the Tea & Coffee Museum and been a judge for the Tea Council."

The MBE goes to Tim Sigsworth, chief executive of the Albert Kennedy Trust, for services to homeless young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people.

The Government said: "He has advanced equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGBT) people nationally, with a particular focus on protecting vulnerable young people living in crisis. He has a long history of campaigning for equality for LGBT people. His early work at the Lesbian and Gay Foundation ensured that the valuable services provided to lesbian and gay people in the north west was strengthened, maintained and grew."

"Since heading the Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT – a voluntary organisation created in 1989 to serve LGBT young people who are homeless, living in a hostile environment or in housing crisis) in 2007 as chief executive, he has overseen the development of a range of programmes providing direct support to thousands of vulnerable young LGBT people who find themselves homeless, and often vulnerable to sexual exploitation. AKT provide an important service as many young people will not use mainstream provision for fear of homophobia or transphobia from other service users or even the service itself."

For services to London's Greek community, Mrs Agatha Kalisperas of the Marylebone-based Hellenic Centre receives the BEM.

The Government said: "She has worked for the Hellenic Centre as a Director from 1997, with her small team of staff she has organised many successful cultural events, not only attended by the Greek community but to a very large extent by non-Greeks. She has provided a platform for young individuals to showcase their talents and people of all backgrounds to congregate at the Centre. Events include exhibitions, language classes; concerts and lectures by distinguished speakers from the UK and abroad, with almost all events free to the public. The centre is an independent charitable organisation solely replying on fundraising. She developed a venue hire system to fund the Centre, which enabled companies and organisations to hire rooms during the day. Due to her fundraising efforts she has been able to maintain the Centre, raising money for not only cultural programmes but also for building maintenance."

The BEM has been awarded to former Met PC Michael Smith, who founded Word 4 Weapons, an award-winning, faith-based organisation which counteracts knife and gun crime by collecting weapons at secure bins across the capital. There are now 25 weapons bins in London and since 2007 Word 4 Weapons has collected more than 11,000 weapons that have been voluntarily handed in.



# Bright idea gives capital light relief

BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE capital's first festival of light will soon bleach the winter darkness when Lumiere London brightens the city like never before.

With 3D projections, interactive installations and other extraordinary light works, the free festival will make the West End shine over four evenings from Thursday 14 to Sunday 17 January, switching on from 6.30 to 10.30pm.

"More than 20 international artists will illuminate some of the city's most iconic buildings and locations, to present a major outdoor showcase of creativity that underpins London's status as a world leading cultural destination," said a spokesman for Mayor Boris Johnson.

Transforming London's urban landscape and architecture from Leicester Square to Piccadilly, St James's, Carnaby Street and Oxford Circus to the German Gymnasium and Granary Square at King's Cross, the dazzling illuminations from producers Artichoke will reveal some of the capital's hidden secrets and bathe London in a completely new glow.

Since 2009 Artichoke has been staging Lumiere in Durham, where its light show has been attracting ever-growing audiences. It has also exhibited in Londonderry and Portugal to much acclaim.

"Artichoke is passionate about the possibility of light and how it can transform urban environments. Lumiere London will be no different, you should prepare to be dazzled," said a spokesman.

Festival highlights include:

**West End**  
■ *Garden of Light, TILT (France)*. TILT's exotic garden of giant illuminated plants will bring tropical summer to dark January nights in Leicester Square, one of London's premiere entertainment spots. Supported by Heart of London Business Alliance.  
■ *1.8 London, Janet Echelman (US)*, a vast billowing aerial sculpture constructed from thousands of feet of knotted twine and suspended at Oxford Circus. The sculpture is inspired by the 2011 Japanese Tsunami.  
■ *Shaida Walking 2015 by Julian*

*Opie (UK)*, installed on Broadwick Street, opposite Carnaby Street. Supported by Shaftesbury PLC.  
■ *Aquarium, Benedetto Bufalino (France)*. A defunct red phone box in Mayfair becomes a living aquarium filled with goldfish. Supported by The Grosvenor Estate.  
■ *Les Voyageurs, Cedric Le Borgne (France)*. Le Borgne's larger than life human figures will appear like guardian angels on and around buildings in the St James's area. In partnership with The Crown Estate.

**King's Cross**  
■ *Joining the Dots, Clearly Connolly (Ireland/France)*, a projected artwork on the German Gymnasium in King's Cross, based on perceptive psychology and developed with the contribution of local school students.  
■ *BinaryWaves, LAb[au] (Belgium)*, has its roots in the cybernetic art of the 1960s. Transposing the electromagnetic waves that carry telecommunications into light, sound and motion across 40 undulating illuminated panels, the work responds to the everyday rhythms of the city.  
■ *Circus of Light, Ocubu (Portugal)*. A magical animation across the breadth of the iconic Granary Building at King's Cross, Circus of Light features local residents and passers-by.  
■ *Litre of Light, Mick Stephenson, (UK)*. Working with students at Central St Martins, Mick Stephenson will create a structure resembling the shanty homes, which are illuminated using simple technology developed by My Shelter Foundation's Litre of Light campaign. Supported by Veolia.

**Main Plaza, Regent's Place**  
■ *Platonic Spin, Nathaniel Rackowe (UK)*. Uniting the two Lumiere London hubs, Platonic Spin strings together interlocking rectangles of glowing wire to form the outside of a dodecahedron, one of the fundamental three-dimensional building blocks of the universe. Split into rectangles, each one lights in turn, creating a sense of movement and shifting composition, which gains in speed and momentum until it appears to be one single form moving in space before all the planes are revealed simultaneously. Supported by British Land and Regent's Place.



■ LET THERE BE LIGHT: The stunning displays created elsewhere in the UK by London Lumiere organisers Artichoke.

## 'Massive' police appeal delivers hundreds of presents to foster children

A CHRISTMAS campaign to deliver presents to foster children in Hammersmith and Fulham has been hailed a huge success.

Almost 200 gifts were generously donated to the Met Police appeal and wrapped up in time for youngsters to open them on Christmas morning.

The borough's police team and

volunteer cadets worked with staff at Hammersmith and Fulham council to collect and wrap the presents, before handing them over to the children. A total of 194 gifts were donated from across the borough – more than double the number collected for last year's appeal.

The Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, Councillor Mercy Umeh,

and Detective Superintendent Paul Jarvis joined several other guests at Hammersmith Town Hall on Wednesday December 23rd to present the gifts during a special ceremony.

Cllr Umeh said: "It really is an amazing achievement. Well done to everyone who has worked so hard on this project."

The Met Police's annual campaign aims to ensure that every looked-after child under the age of 18 receives a Christmas present.

PC Joanne Duffy, youth engagement co-ordinator at Hammersmith and Fulham Police, said it had been a "massive achievement" to co-ordinate this year's appeal.

"I am overwhelmed by the gen-

erosity and Christmas spirit that everyone has shown," she said. "There were donations not just from the police and the council but members of the public – from the borough and beyond. We have even had donations from a local school. Now every single looked-after child in Hammersmith and Fulham gets a present this year."



■ PRAISE: Cllr Mercy Umeh.



# Amazon adventure excites students at West London's university

STUDENTS and staff at the University of West London's School of Computing and Engineering are starting to reap the benefits of a unique partnership with internet trading giant Amazon.

The university started working with the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Educate programme in June last year, one of the first higher education institutions in the country to do so.

This collaboration has already brought great benefits to the university through Amazon experts sharing their knowledge with

students and staff. UWL was the first university in the UK to run an AWS workshop on campus. The event offered staff, students, IT professionals and enthusiasts eager to enhance their knowledge of cloud computing the opportunity to obtain first-hand training in the AWS Cloud.

The workshop provided a step-by-step introduction to core AWS services in computing, storage, databases and networking, with presenters explaining key features, using case studies, sharing best practice and walking

through technical demos. The event also gave students a fantastic opportunity to meet with the Amazon careers team to discuss job opportunities.

The company has also awarded the Amazon Research Grant of 10,000 dollars to Associate Professor Wei Jie. The grant is part of a worldwide research funding program giving recipients the opportunity to use Amazon's cloud computing resources to conduct cutting-edge research. Dr Wei Jie's project, A Self-organizing Community Detection Al-

gorithm for Large-scale Social Networks, aims to design and implement a tool to analyse behaviour in a large-scale social network.

The university and Amazon are exploring opportunities for further collaboration in course development, joint teaching, internships and placements.

Professor Amir Alani, Head of the School of Computing and Technology, said: "The collaboration between Amazon and the School of Computing and Engineering is a very exciting one."



■ PIONEER: The University of West London is enjoying its partnership with web retail giant Amazon.

# Symbol of freedom defies the terrorists

BY GEOFF BAKER

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A GIANT symbol of defiance against Islamist jihadists is to be built in Trafalgar Square.

The 50ft replica of an ancient stone arch in Syria believed to have survived an Isis bombing campaign will stand as a monument to a free world when it is erected in April to coincide with World Heritage Week.

The original 2,000-year-old archway may be all that remains of the Temple of Bel in the city of Palmyra, which was all but levelled by the terror group last summer.

Now the Oxford-based Institute of Digital Archaeology is planning to build a lightweight replica in the shadow of Nelson's Column.

In August 2015, Isis executed Khaled al-Asaad, an 82-year-old archaeologist who had tended the ancient ruins of Palmyra for 40 years. According to Syria's antiquities chief, Maamoun Abdulkarim, al-Asaad was beheaded and his body was hung in public.

Later that month, a week after Isis detonated explosives



■ DEFIANT: An artist's impression of the iconic stone arch.

in Palmyra's ancient Baal Shamin temple, the United Nations released satellite images confirming that the organization had also reduced the Temple of Bel to rubble.

Only the perimeter wall and the entrance arch, badly damaged, were left standing. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which had named Palmyra a World Heritage Site, called the temple's destruction "an intolerable crime against civilization".

IDA executive director Roger Michel, said the replica arch, which will stand in front of the National Gallery, "is really a political statement, a call to action, to draw attention to what is happening in Syria and Iraq and now Libya."

"We are saying to them 'if you destroy something we can rebuild it again.' The symbolic value of these sites is enormous."

Another replica of the arch will be erected in New York's Times Square.

# Free rides follow Oyster card blip



■ JUST THE TICKET: Oyster card users were handed a welcome New Year present.

PASSENGERS using London's transport network last weekend travelled for free after a technical glitch meant they were unable to use their Oyster cards.

Experts explained that a card reader fault affected buses and Tube stations earlier. Passengers were waved through barriers free of charge by Transport for London staff.

But Saturday's failure, reportedly connected with a fare increase, did not prevent people using the Tube, bus and rail networks.

TfL said the problem, which began at 4.30am, was later resolved.

TfL said it was the first such problem with the card readers in 10 years and the glitch was linked to a 1.1 per cent increase in fares overnight.

About 100,000 free journeys are believed to have been made between 4am and 10am, which TfL estimated to be worth about £250,000 in lost revenue.

A spokesman told the BBC: "Customers should now touch in and out as normal."

"Anyone charged a maximum fare due to this issue will get an automatic refund credited to their Oyster card early next week. We apologise for this disruption."

People using pay-as-you-go Oyster cards were able to travel for free while the card readers were down as the machines were unable to deduct the correct fare from the pre-paid cards.

Season ticket Oyster card users were unaffected as travel is not paid per journey.

## Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

### London News pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NN8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembroke Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

### Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

### Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Academics Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

### Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
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### Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

### Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS



# Authors on write lines for top prize

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

ONE of two London writers could be £33,000 better off next week when the winner of the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature is revealed.

On the shortlist of six writers contending for the best South Asian fiction are Mirza Waheed for *The Book of Gold Leaves*. Mirza Waheed's debut novel, *The Collaborator*, was an international bestseller and was book of the year for *The Daily Telegraph*, *New Statesman* and *Financial Times*.

Also shortlisted is Neel Mukherjee for *The Lives of Others*. His first novel, *A Life Apart*, won the Vodafone-Crossword Award in India and the Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for best fiction.

The South Asian Literature prize was co-founded by London entrepreneur Surina Narula MBE. Her work in South Asia gave her first-hand experience of the working of South Asian soci-

ety especially the undertones of poverty, illiteracy and disproportionate wealth.

Sir Mark Tully, the former BBC news veteran and chairman of the jury panel that selected the shortlist, said: "We have had to make difficult decisions because all the books on the very varied long-list could qualify for the shortlist."

"Our final list still reflects the variety and vigour of South Asian fiction writing and writing about South Asia. One of the most striking features of the list is the quality of writing. The novels are also remarkable for their realism and for the way they convey atmosphere."

The winner will be announced at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka on January 16.

Sir Mark was bureau chief of the BBC in New Delhi, is a historian and also wrote books on the Gandhis, Mother Theresa, Operation Blue Star (the assassination of Indira Gandhi).

The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016 shortlist comprises:

■ Akhil Sharma: *Family Life* (Faber & Faber, UK)

■ Anuradha Roy: *Sleeping on Jupiter* (Hachette, India)

■ K.R. Meera: *Hang Woman* (Translated by J Devika; Penguin, India)

■ Mirza Waheed: *The Book of Gold Leaves* (Viking/Penguin India)

■ Neel Mukherjee: *The Lives of Others* (Vintage/Penguin Random House, UK)

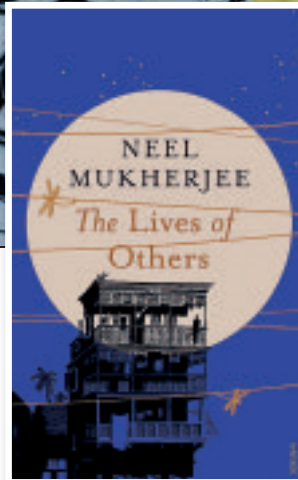
■ Raj Kamal Jha: *She Will Build Him A City* (Bloomsbury, India)

The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature prides itself on a thorough and transparent judging process and is modelled on global best practices. The jury panel is made up of eminent figures who have all worked in or around South Asia and understand the fabric of the society needed to best judge the narrative around the texts.

Sir Mark said: "I am particularly glad that a translation from a South Asian language into English is included in the shortlist."

Another highlight of the prize is that writing in regional languages is highly encouraged and the prize money is equally shared between the author and the translator in case a translated entry wins. This works as a great impetus for regional writers who often struggle to gain visibility on international shores.

Speaking about the shortlist, Surina Narula, MBE and co-founder of the DSC Prize, said: "Once again we have seen some of the world's greatest authors recognised for their fantastic contributions to the genre of South Asian literature."



■ **SHORTLISTED!** Neel Mukherjee, pictured top of the page, is the author of *The Lives of Others*, while Mirza Waheed, inset above, features in the shortlist for *The Book of Gold Leaves*

Main picture: [www.djh-graphics.com](http://www.djh-graphics.com)



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## Happy birthday, Heathrow

HEATHROW Airport marked a major milestone on New Year's Day – the 70th anniversary of it becoming a commercial airport.

While the then newly named London Airport was officially opened on May 31, 1946, it was on January 1, 1946 that the site – which was originally built for military use during the Second World War – was handed over to the Minister of Civil Aviation.

The first commercial flight to leave on that day was a British South American Airlines Lancastrian 'Star Light' which flew to Buenos Aires,

with the first passengers flying from the airport in May. Keith Haywood, 87, who has worked at the airport for over 70 years and remembers pushing one of the first flights back, told reporters: "I feel very privileged to have seen Heathrow develop and grow from its first day in 1946."

The airport will officially celebrate its 70th birthday on May 31 but a number of important anniversary moments will be recognised by colleagues, passengers and the local community throughout the year.

Heathrow chief executive John Holland Kaye said: "This

is a significant milestone which marks the incredible transformation of Heathrow. It has come a long way from being a military airfield to a national asset which is now a globally recognised brand."

"I am very proud to be a part of 'Team Heathrow' and the 75,000 colleagues helping to make every passenger's journey better. I'm looking forward to celebrating the history of this amazing airport this year but I'm also looking forward to the next 70 years as Heathrow aims to be the best connected and most environmentally responsible airport in the world."



# Chelsea girl sets sail for show

BY GEOFF BAKER  
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TELEVISION'S *Made In Chelsea* star Lucy Watson will open the 62nd annual London Boat Show on Friday, January 8.

The television idol, model and avid sailor, will open the 10-day Show at ExCeL London, launching the 2016 boating calendar in glitzy style.

Thousands of boats and brands will be showcased at the event all from leading British and international companies. Exhibitors will range from world-class boat builders through to fashion, travel operators and watersports companies.

"As a firm fixture of the London social scene and a fan of all kinds of activity on the water, often joining the *Made in Chelsea* cast on the deck of a luxury powerboat, Lucy is the perfect fit for the Show," said a spokesman for the 10-day show, which will play host to over 300 of the most prestigious marine brands in a space spread across a space the size of six full-sized football pitches.

Visitors to the Land Rover BAR stand (A001) will get the chance to meet the team behind Britain's challenge for the 35th America's Cup next year.

Visitors will also be able to trial the next development of the Land Rover BAR's 3D sailing experience. The innovative adventure starts with each virtual sailor at the helm, controlling their own AC45 and getting a personalised image of them 'flying' the foiling catamaran.

For the first time visitors can also discover the stand's 'pit wall' display, which will showcase how the Land Rover BAR Systems and Analysis team review data from the testing boats, just like a Formula 1 race team on the pit lane.

Commenting on plans for the show, Land Rover BAR's Head of Communications and Events, Jo Grindly, said: "We'll be bringing a new 3D sailing



■ **MADE IN HEAVEN:** Lucy Watson will open the London Boat Show.

Showcasing technologies and innovations straight out of the team's HQ, visitors will be able to learn and interact with the innovations behind the bid to bring the Cup home."

Other boat show attractions will include a Mediterranean Bay with waterfront cafés and a specially built pool hosting live demonstrations. There will also be hundreds of boats to climb aboard, a 60's Revival showcasing boating highlights from the era, and themed discussions led by industry experts in the London Boat Show Theatre.

Lucy Watson will be at the show on the morning of January 8 to welcome the first arrivals, with an official opening and ribbon-cutting at 11am.

experience, a power grinder competition and team members from both the design and sailing teams will be on the stand at various times during the show."

Murray Ellis, Managing Director at British Marine Boat Shows, said: "As the British Challenger for the 35th America's Cup, Land Rover BAR has inspired a nation. We will be offering visitors to the London Boat Show an exclusive opportunity to delve into the world of the America's Cup.



## Factfile

- The show celebrates its 62nd event this year
- There will be more than 400 brands on show
- New brands for 2016 – Suzuki, Adidas Sailing, Four Winns, Monterey Boats, Seago Yachting, Jimmy Green Marine, IMP, Lewmar, Rodman, Arthur Beale, RNLI and Marathon Leisure
- There will be nearly 400 boats on show
- The London Boat Show takes place from Friday 8 January – Sunday 17 January, with Public Preview Day and Late Night Thursday (14 January closes at 8pm).
- Adult tickets start at just £15 in advance, with two children aged 15 and under going free with every adult ticket
- For show ticket information please visit [www.londonboatshow.com](http://www.londonboatshow.com)
- Show organisers say that boating is affordable for everyone – the London Boat Show will have boats that range from just £300 right up to £4.5million luxury yachts. There will also be clothing and holidays available.

## River crossing inquiry date

A MINI public inquiry into the Nine Elms Bridge river crossing plan will be staged by Westminster City Council later this month.

The announcement comes after a petition signed by 1,500 people was handed to councillors at a full council meeting on November 11 last year.

The hearing will be held at an environment committee meeting on January 18.

Members from Wandsworth Council, which is behind the plans for the pedestrian and cycle crossing from Battersea to Pimlico in Westminster, Transport for London and other

interested parties will be invited to attend and give evidence.

In a letter to Wandsworth Council leader Cllr Ravi Govindia, environment committee chairman Cllr Ian Adams wrote: "We would very much appreciate the attendance of representatives from the London Borough of Wandsworth, in order to hear from a range of witnesses with knowledge of the proposals."

The inquiry will examine the potential design of the crossing, its location and the consultation process.

The meeting is scheduled to

take place at Westminster City Hall. It is only proposed to last for the one evening but officials have indicated that the inquiry could be extended to another day if all the questions raised have not been answered during the meeting.

Over the past year Westminster Council has expressed a series of reservations over the river crossing plans. It culminated in calls from some quarters for the idea to be scrapped altogether.

A competition to find a design for the bridge was whittled down from 74 entries to four in July last year.

"family entertainment at its very best. I couldn't see because I was crying with laughter. If you only go and see one panto this Christmas, make it this one"

South London Press

**Red Riding Hood**  
MUST END 10 JANUARY



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**GREENWICH THEATRE LONDON**



## LONDON'S SECRET WORLD OF WILDLIFE

Some of the greatest sights of London are found not just at its landmarks, palaces, galleries and shops – but in the wonderland of the Royal Parks and its wildlife. More than 4,000 species of animals make their homes in the 5,000 acres that total Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Richmond Park, Bushy Park, St James's Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park and The Regent's Park.

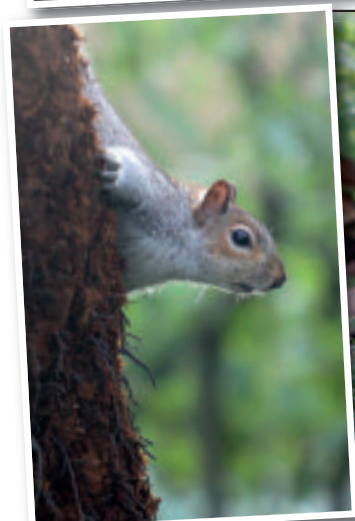
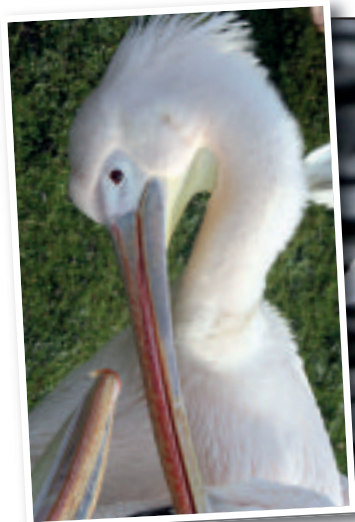
The land that was originally owned by the monarchy has become free public parks for 165 years and no walk along the 68 miles of paths, beside the 21 lakes and pools and among the 170,000 trees is ever without some special sighting.

We sent award-winning wildlife photographer Richard Austin to capture the animal magic that every year enchants millions and inspires awe at the natural glory hidden inside the world's greatest city.

His pictures tell the story better than words can match.



■ EYES DOWN: A community of coots busy themselves on the water in the Royal Parks, providing a fascinating sideshow for walkers.



■ LONDON'S BACK GARDEN: A crow decides to eat out, above, while squirrels keep an eye on proceedings and great white pelicans entertain.

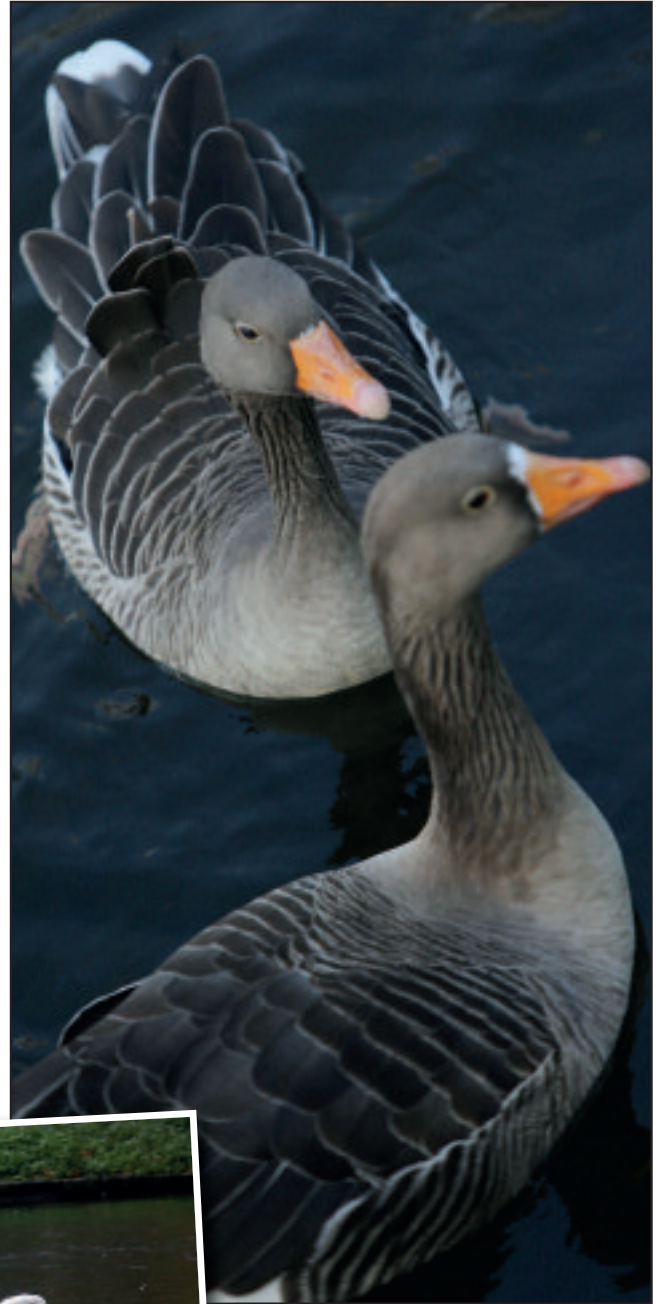


## LONDON'S SECRET WORLD OF WILDLIFE

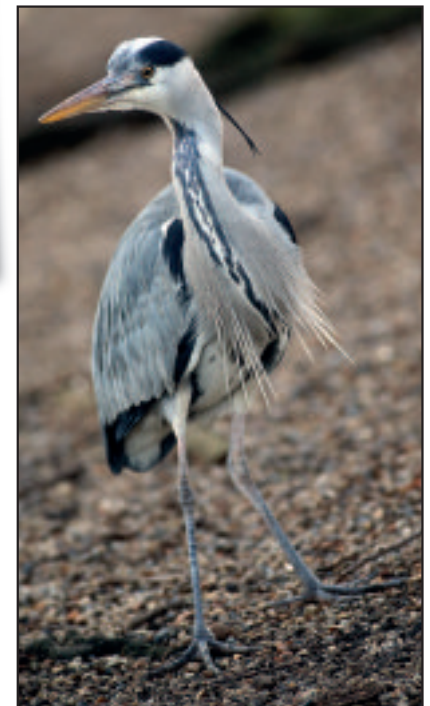
LWN



■ ALL WHITE: Great white pelicans on dry land while swans prefer the water. Below left: a greylag goose arrives.



Richard Austin's acclaimed photographs of animals led to him being given his own TV series called *Richard Austin's Animal Magic*. He has also published five books under the titles of *Richard Austin's Animal Magic*. His work – wildlife, news and sport – appears regularly in the national press. To view his portfolio visit his website [www.richardaustininimages.com](http://www.richardaustininimages.com). To buy pictures call Richard on 01297 445643 or you can email [shop@richardaustininimages.com](mailto:shop@richardaustininimages.com)



■ WONDERFUL WORLD: Swans gather as daylight fades, while a heron swoops over the water, above and right.



## ROYAL LONDON

# Prince weathers storm of climate change criticism

BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

**CALLS** are growing for the Government to bring in Prince Charles as a special adviser on climate change as flood fury over years of inaction rises and a report reveals that London could be next.

In the wake of the latest flood devastation Ministers are set to listen a lot more to Charles in the future – not least as scientists have predicted that one in four London properties is at risk to flooding.

The Prince of Wales has been warning for decades of the catastrophic effects of climate change like those experienced by the thousands whose Christmas was destroyed by flooding. He has cautioned against the lack of dredging rivers and has advised the mass planting of trees, which soak up excess water.

But the prince, who has made himself an expert on the climate threat through 40 years of study, was ignored and even mocked in the past for his dire predictions which have become grim reality.

But now a new review of the nation's readiness for the effects of global warming

is to be ordered by the Government and it will take in all advice and opinion, including that of Prince Charles.

As the authorities finally come to accept that climate change will mean wetter winters, Ministers are anxious to be prepared for the next deluge like that which ruined homes and lives in Somerset, Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire – not least because of fears that a Super Rainstorm could sink the capital.

One in four London properties, collectively worth around £250 billion, are at risk of flooding, according to official assessments of the dangers which listed ten of the top 25 most at-risk local authority areas across England and Wales as London boroughs.

A little-noted flood risk assessment by the Environment Agency in 2013 showed that London boroughs dominate the local authorities with most properties in jeopardy from river and tidal flooding.

Hammersmith and Fulham, Southwark and Wandsworth are among the most threatened.

Another report, compiled by the Greater London Authority, suggests London has 850,000 properties in areas at risk of surface water, river and tidal flooding. This ratio of one in four homes in risk areas is

significantly higher than the national average, which the environment agency says is one in six homes.

The data put 69,000 properties at risk in Hammersmith and Fulham, 52,000 in Wandsworth and more than 100,000 in Southwark.

Following the floods of this Christmas, one Minister was reported saying the flooding was a "once in a lifetime event" whilst other experts took the attempted to be reassuring line that the flooding was "unprecedented", with the implication that it would not happen again.

But now official opinion is swinging towards the Prince of Wales's view, that precedent is an irrelevance because global warming means the world has changed and future weather conditions will be the like of what we have never seen before.

Prince Charles laid out his argument that flooding is no flash in the pan when he addressed world leaders at the recent climate change summit in Paris.

He told the heads of government: "Your deliberations over the next two weeks will decide the fate not only of those alive today, but also of generations yet unborn."

"So I can only urge you to think of your grandchildren, as I think of mine, and of those billions of people without a voice; those for whom hope is the rarest of sensations; those for whom a secure life is a distant prospect."

"Most of all, I urge you to consider the needs of the youngest generation, because none of us has the right to assume that 'for our today they should give up their tomorrow.'"

Painting a darker picture than that sketched by most Governments, Prince Charles added: "On an increasingly crowded planet, humanity faces many threats – but none is greater than climate change. It magnifies every hazard and tension of our existence."

"It threatens our ability to feed ourselves; to remain healthy and safe from extreme weather; to manage the natural resources that support our economies, and to avert the humanitarian disaster of mass migration and increasing conflict."

"In damaging our climate we become the architects of our own destruction. While the planet can survive the scorching of the earth and the rising of the waters, the human race cannot."

Although the Paris settle-



■ SPOOKY: Hampton Court Palace ghost tours.

ment ended with international agreement that countries commit to keeping global warming to "well below" the previous goal of a 2C limit, climate change scientists and eco-campaigners believe that Charles's urgent foot on the pedal is needed because backsliding is already going on.

Amber Rudd, the Energy Secretary, admitted after the summit that there would be "no tough compliance" on countries that failed to carry out their own promises on greenhouse gas emissions.

But as Charles warned those gathered at the summit – and the Christmas floods again proved him right – there can be no let-up now in the race to save the planet.

He said: "The whole of nature cries out at our mistreatment of her."

"If the planet were a patient, we would have treated her long ago. You, ladies and gentlemen, have the power to put her on life support, and you must surely start the emergency procedures without further procrastination!"



■ ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION: The Prince of Wales, here on the Somerset levels in 2014.



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## ROYAL LONDON

# Palaces serve up fun for the family

BY GEOFF BAKER  
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HISTORIC Royal Palaces will be embracing the New Year with a series of fun-filled family activities, culminating in the launch of a new spectacular, the Magic Garden, at Hampton Court Palace at Easter.

There will be much to enjoy for fashion fans too, as the Fashion Rules exhibition at Kensington Palace undergoes a style overhaul with a completely new display of dresses from the collections of HM The Queen, Princess Margaret, and Diana, Princess of Wales. Highlights for 2016 include:

**The Magic Garden, Easter, Hampton Court Palace**  
“Experience the legendary world of the Tudor tournament in an entirely new way as Hampton Court Palace’s Magic Garden opens for the Easter holidays. A brand new imaginative play garden for families, the Magic Garden is inspired by the palace’s past. Located in King Henry VIII’s former tiltyard – where Tudor tournaments were once held – discover something new around every twist and turn in an immersive world populated by mythical beasts, including a 25m dragon! Bring the family to become Tudor Knights, besiege the battlements, storm the Tiltyard Towers and explore a mysterious secret grotto.”  
Magic Garden & Maze only ticket: adults £7 / children £2.50 / family £12

**Fashion Rules: Restyled. From 11 February, Kensington Palace**  
“Opening in February, an all-new display in the Fashion Rules exhibition at Kensington Palace will move the timeline to focus on different periods in the wardrobes of HM The Queen, Princess Margaret and Diana, Princess of Wales, expanding our glimpse into the era-defining style choices of these three royal women. From the ‘New Look’ glamour of Princess Margaret in the 1950s, the elegance of HM The Queen in the 1960s and 1970s, and the tailored drama of outfits created for Diana, Princess of Wales in the early 1990s, the display will continue to explore how these women navigated the fashion ‘rules’ defined by their royal duties in unique style.”

**The Battle of Agincourt, ends 31 January, Tower of London**  
“Visit this special exhibition in the White Tower in its final weeks. Marking the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt, discover medieval armour, art, music, sculpture and manuscripts and marvel at a detailed diorama of the battle, revealing the emotional story and legacy of this battle.”

Other events at the royal palaces include:

**Family Ghost Tours, 13 & 20 February, 6.30 pm, Hampton Court Palace.**  
“Join an early evening walking tour where the history of the palace really does come eerily to life. Learn about ghostly appearances and other spooky happenings in the 500 year old majestic Tudor building.”  
Suitable for 8–14 year olds. Tickets: adults £14 / children £7. Phone booking only – call 0844 482 7777

**Twilight Tours, Selected dates from 5 January, Tower of London.**  
“Yeoman Warders lead exclusive after dark tours of the Tower, taking in some of the gruesome sights and spooky stories which make it world famous. The tours offer after-hours access to the UK’s most visited historic attraction, and visitors can enjoy the Tower at its most tranquil and its most spooky.”  
Suitable for 12+ year olds. Tickets: £27.50 / £25 HRP members. Advance booking essential.

**Study day: How Not To Get Killed, With the Royal Armouries, Saturday 23 January, 10.00-2.30, Tower of London**  
“The Royal Armouries’ collection contains curiosities, arms, and armour from antiquity to today. Ever wanted to know how to protect oneself from vampires? Or how safe armour really is? Find out the answers to these questions and many more. Secrets of the Royal Armouries’ collection will be revealed in an exploration of how to fend off supernatural, combative and down-right-weird in this fascinating study day. The day will include expert talks and handling sessions with exclusive access to collection items.”  
Speakers: Bridget Clifford, Head of Collections at the Royal Armouries Jonathan Ferguson, Firearms Curator at the Royal Armouries. Tickets: £32 / £28 HRP members.

**Eerie Evening Tours, 8, 15, 22 and 29 January, 6.45 pm, Kensington Palace**  
“When all the gates are locked and the lights are out, is the palace truly asleep? Join an Eerie Evening Tour to hear the tales of mysterious sights and unexplained happenings and be guided through the shadowy state apartments to relieve the sorrow of heartbroken kings and queens. You will hear accounts of medical disasters, painful illnesses and undignified deaths and the lasting legacy they have left behind. You’ll need to hold on to your cloaks and ready your lanterns as we immerse ourselves in Queen Victoria’s macabre mourning for Prince

Albert and explore the weird and wonderful world of Victorian spiritualism.”  
Suitable for 16+ year olds. Tickets: £27.50 / £24.75 HRP members. Advanced booking essential.

**Tiny Explorers, selected Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 February, Kensington Palace**  
“Explore and play in the palace together! Discover the stories of Kensington Palace in these multi-sensory sessions for under 5s. Through music, movement, messy play and more, you and your little one will be transported into a magical world of stories.”  
Tickets: £6 / £5 HRP members

**Victoriana: Science and Séance, 13 February, 11.00-12.30, Kensington Palace**  
“The Victorian era is celebrated as birth of the modern world. Whilst scientific advances, including Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution, revealed the secrets of the natural world, technological innovation reached heights people thought should be captured by events like the Great Exhibition. At the same time, though, Britain was also fascinated by the supernatural, from spiritualism and séances to gothic fiction and sensationalist serialisations. Even Queen Victoria would attend a physics lecture one evening and the next an opera filled with ‘lovely ghosts’.”  
Speaker: Dr. Chris Renwick, Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the University of York. Tickets: £15 / £12 HRP members. Ticket includes a glass of Bucks Fizz and entry to Kensington Palace.

**Live at the Tower Charity Gala, 13 and 14 February, 6.30 pm, Tower of London**  
“A fundraising evening of variety acts hosted by the Yeoman Warders at the Tower of London; net proceeds will be donated to the conservation project of the chapel of St John in the iconic White Tower. Starting with a drinks and canapé reception, the evening entails a two act variety show hosted by a celebrity MC.”  
Tickets: Standard tickets are £75. VIP tickets are £125 and include premium seating and a private tour of the Crown Jewels before the show.

**Drawn at the Tower with Art Macabre, 15 February, 15 March, 13 April and 24 May, 6.30-9pm, Tower of London**  
“A new creative collaboration between Historic Royal Palaces and Art Macabre.”  
Tickets: £24 – £20 concessions and for Tower Hamlets residents.



## Parents follow George on voyage of discovery in the school classroom

**F**OLLOWING the decision by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge that Prince George should follow his father and have Montessori nursery schooling, the ‘Kate Effect’ is expected to hit in again and cause other young parents to follow their example.  
The Duke and Duchess announced before Christmas that George will attend part-time at the Westacre Montessori in King’s Lynn, near the family’s home at Anmer Hall on the Sandringham Estate.  
The announcement has prompted many other parents of young children to ask, “what is Montessori schooling?” The Montessori schooling system, which was chosen by Princess Diana for both of her boys, was created in the early 1900s by Italian physician Maria Montessori, who developed an “innovate” way of learning where children learn through play.  
Montessori schools let pupils explore whatever interests them – a somewhat different system to the tests-obsessed regime favoured by other educationalists.  
The Montessori movement has more than 600 nurseries in the UK with more than 5,000 students.

Its core philosophy is based around freedom: students have the liberty to choose from a number of prescribed options. It promotes a “discovery” model, where pupils learn concepts from working on the material on their own rather than by direct instruction.  
Students also have freedom of movement within the classroom. Research has shown that five-year old pupils who attended a Montessori school are better prepared for reading and maths.  
For pre-schoolers and kindergarten children like Prince George, Montessori classrooms for children from 3 to 6 years old are called Children’s Houses, after Montessori’s first school, the Casa dei Bambini in Rome in 1906.  
A typical classroom serves 20 to 30 children in mixed-age groups, staffed by one trained teacher and an assistant. Activities are mainly initially presented by the teacher, after which they may be chosen more or less freely by the children as their interest dictates.  
Activities in Children’s Houses are hands on, using tactile materials to teach concepts – to teach writing,

children use sandpaper letters. These are letters created by cutting letters out of sandpaper and placing them on wooden blocks. The children then trace these letters with their fingers to learn the shape and sound of each letter.  
Prince George’s new school was opened 23 years ago and has 27 children, whose parents pay up to £33 a week. The school is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 12 and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 2.45pm, during school term times.  
A fun time for Prince George at the school has been predicted by Claire Schofield, a director of the National Day Nurseries Association.  
She said: “Going to nursery will be a great move for Prince George. He’ll be just over two and a half when he starts and at that age it’s all about free play – sand and water, dressing up, painting and making things, just getting stuck in and getting messy.”  
“Most nurseries invite new starters to play with a parent, and then on their own, a few times, before their first day at nursery. That allows the child, their parents and the nursery staff to get to know each other.”



# Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

**B**RITAIN'S funniest and bravest comedy favourite Billy Connolly returns to London this week for an extended residency, with the Big Yin vowing to be "dangerous" and "growing old disgracefully".

Billy, who is dealing with prostate cancer and Parkinson's Disease, is bringing his *High Horse* tour to the Hammersmith Apollo for a long run which begins on Thursday (January 7).

The residency, which has already been extended due to public demand to February 6 from its original end date January 23, promises to be a sell-out as thousands clamour for tickets to see the national treasure.

But although Billy is now aged 73, he's warning audiences not to expect him to have toned down his hilarious and frankly-speaking show.

"After 30 years of stand-up comedy, I still find it every bit as frightening to get up in front of an audience," he says.

"For me it's nerves, it's all nerves and anger and coffee and being high that does it for me. I mean being high in the natural sense. I don't turn on to go on stage but I do get very, very high when I'm up there and it suddenly happens – it's almost a kind of spiritual thing, but this rush comes on you and if you can hold it all in and channel it, suddenly you're funny."

Indicating what audiences should be anticipating in his show, Billy adds: "I never really became a man, which is probably why so much of my comedy still

**I hope to grow old disgracefully. I'd like to be a complete nuisance**

revolves around bodily functions.

"I remained a boy and all boys love it – underpants, willies, poo, knickers, bums."

But watch out if you're sitting in a seat of power, because you could become a target of Billy's award-winning wit.

"There are some people I like to wound," he says, "like church people and politicians, because they become untouchable. So I love swinging the boot at those targets. I think they manipulate people terribly and I like to equalise it a wee bit."

He added: "I hope to grow old disgracefully. I'd like to be a complete nuisance, like Spike Milligan, a great hero of mine. I'd like to shout in church 'Rubbish! Explain!' I'd like to be in the public gallery in Parliament shouting 'Tosh! Nonsense! Get a job!' I really would. I'd like to go and show up those Scottish parliament types. I like to scream at nationalists whenever I can, I have a deep loathing of nationalists."

"I don't like patriots or religious weirdos, but I would like to be a nuisance. I would like to still be active, keep my mind active and still always stand for freedom and the things I really believe in, the things I believed in when I was a hippy and I still believe in now."

"I don't have ambition, I just want to keep honing the thing that I've got and make it better and better, that's all. That's the only ambition I have – I just want to be very good at what I do, keep the standard high and stay dangerous."

## Stand-up is still standing – and swinging the boot at people in high places

■ BIG YIN'S BACK: Billy Connolly is in town.



## Ruby's 21st century survival guide

**LAST CHANCE** to see Ruby Wax's *Sane New World* Tour, which comes to The Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street WC2, from January 19 to February 13. Ruby says the show is designed to "help us understand why we sabotage our own sanity and it provides a manual on how to survive the 21st century." She adds, with typical wit, "We are not equipped for this century, it's too hard, too fast, and too full of fear; we just don't have the bandwidth. Our brains can't take so much information in a world where we're bombarded by bad news and force-fed information. I can just about take in the weather then I'm exhausted. "You open a newspaper, everyone's dead. We're only supposed to know what our neighbour is up to; if the woman next door to you is having sex with the man next door to her we need to know; but four doors down and it's none of our business."



**DON'T MISS:** Returning to the capital in glorious style, The Libertines play the only London gig on their European tour at The O2 on January 30. Following the success of their re-launch album *Anthems For Doomed Youth* last year, the iconic band that formerly-squabbling frontmen Carl Barat and Pete Doherty once said would never play again will perform to up to 20,000 fans – who are predicted to take the roof off the arena with the roars that will greet classics including *Don't Look Back Into The Sun*, *Can't Stand Me Now* and the autobiographical *What Became Of The Likely Lads*.

**D**UE to record ratings, BBC One's *Countryfile* is to get a five-times-a-week daytime spinoff show, *Countryfile Diaries*.

After the nature programme built up a following of almost eight million last year, the BBC is to give much more to the back to the fields and forests movement.

*Countryfile Diaries* will offer a further insight into country life witnessed through the changing of the seasons. The five-part BBC One Daytime series will be stripped across the week and will coincide with *Countryfile* Seasonal Specials. Viewers will get to see how each season affects the landscape, wildlife and the people who live and work in the countryside.

The BBC says: "The series will launch in the spring, when our landscape is undergoing an extraordinary transformation, awakening from its winter slumber. A day in spring is a lifetime for some, and the beginning of life for others. Survival is down to one simple thing – timing."

Although presenters are yet to be announced, rumoured favourites include former *Pebble Mill* presenter and Dartmoor resident Judi Spiers, top gardener Monty Don, zoologist Charlotte Uhlenbroek and wildlife filmmaker Liz Bonnin.

**T**HE big star of 2016 is tipped to be William Shakespeare as this year the world marks the 400th anniversary of his death.

TV producers are currently planning all manner of documentaries and dramas about aspects of the greater writer's life – including exploring the claims that he was inspired by smoking cannabis. Whether the writer of *King Lear* was himself something of a fan of *King Gear* is a question that has arisen after traces of cannabis were found in four clay pipes dug up in Shakespeare's garden at Stratford-Upon-Avon. Shakespeare lived in a time where all sorts of new plants and herbs were brought back to Europe from the New World and 15 years ago a team of South African scientists performed forensic analysis on pipes found in Stratford which revealed that, measure for measure, The Bard and his neighbours were party people who enjoyed more than a Hamlet after dinner.

Of the 24 fragments of pipe, eight contained traces of cannabis, four of which were from Shakespeare's property. Two also contained traces of cocaine, but these were not found on his property. The discoveries were made by a team led by Francis Thackeray of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. Much debate is focused on lines from a short play called *A Country Controversy*, in which Shakespeare referred to an herb 'that which maketh time itself wither with sondering.'

Professor Thackeray said: "I suggest this is a cryptic reference to cannabis, which is known to have the effect on the person smoking it of making time slow down."

A Channel 4 film on *The Merry Weed of Windsor* is believed to be scheduled for around the anniversary in April.



# Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

**J**ANUARY is a great time to go to the theatre – with the Get into London Theatre scheme offering tickets to some of the top West End shows from just £10 for performances from now until February 12.

Official London Theatre presents the New Year special deals each year, with London's biggest shows taking part, but with so many to choose from, how do you know which of the stagey spectacles is for you?

We have put together a guide to the top ten West End shows (in our humble opinion), which you can experience in January at a fraction of the usual cost.

## 10 Guys and Dolls, Savoy Theatre

■ Famous songs: *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat, Luck be a Lady, A Bushel and a Peck* Following an acclaimed run at the Chichester Festival Theatre the classic musical transfers to the Savoy Theatre this month. The story is set in 1920s New York and follows a group of gamblers and their molls as they search for redemption.

## 9 Disney's Lion King, Lyceum Theatre

■ Famous songs: *The Circle of Life, Can you Feel the Love Tonight, Hakuna Matata* This spectacular family musical based on the acclaimed Disney film is truly unforgettable with astonishing staging and wonderful music by Elton John and Tim Rice.

## 8 The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, Gielgud Theatre

■ Famous songs: n/a This is the only play on our list, as many of the biggest shows in town are musicals. Based on the award-winning novel by Mark Haddon, the story follows Christopher who has an extraordinary brain, is exceptional at maths while ill equipped to interpret everyday life.

## 7 Les Miserables, Queen's Theatre

■ Famous songs: *I Dreamed a Dream, One Day More, Bring Him Home*

The legendary musical celebrated its record-breaking 30th anniversary in October and has been seen by over 70 million people worldwide. With a classic story and mesmerising soundtrack, this is one show everyone should see at least once in their lifetime.

## 6 Jersey Boys, Piccadilly Theatre

■ Famous songs: *Walk Like a Man, Big Girls Don't Cry, December 1963 (Oh, What a Night)*

A real feel good show, *Jersey Boys* follows the rise to fame of Frankie Valli and The Four Sea-



# 10 shows to see on a budget

sons. Multiple hit records and an enthralling true story make for an excellent night at the theatre.

## 5 The Phantom of the Opera, Her Majesty's Theatre

■ Famous songs: *The Phantom of the Opera, The Music of the Night, All I Ask of You*

Now in its 30th year, *The Phantom of the Opera* is still one of the most impressive stage spectacles in the West End. The mesmerising score tells the classic tragic love story and let's not forget the famous chandelier.

## 4 Mamma Mia! Novello Theatre

■ Famous songs: *Mamma Mia!, Dancing Queen, Thank you for the Music*

Providing London with a bit of sunshine, *Mamma Mia!* is set on a Greek island and features the timeless hit songs of Swedish super group ABBA.

## 3 Kinky Boots, Adelphi Theatre

■ Famous songs: *Everybody Say Yeah, Sex is in the Heel, Not My Father's Son*

A new entry on the list having only opened back in September, this fabulous show is inspired by true events and is a truly joyful and uplifting theatrical experience.

## 2 Miss Saigon, Prince Edward Theatre

■ Famous songs: *The Movie in My Mind, The Last Night of the World, The American Dream*

This spectacular musical is set to close in February, when it will transfer to Broadway, and is a must see it before it's too late. One of the greatest musicals of all time, the tragic tale follows Kim, who falls in love with American GI Chris, only for their lives to be torn apart by the fall of Saigon.

## 1 Wicked, Apollo Victoria

■ Famous songs: *Defying Gravity, Popular, Dancing through Life*

Frequency acclaimed as one of the most popular West End musicals of all time, this fantastic show tells the incredible untold story of the Witches of Oz. With a perfect quotient of comedy and tragedy and an exquisite soundtrack packed with memorable songs, this is our number one recommendation for a January theatre trip. Families can also take advantage of the promotion with offers for *Shrek The Musical, Peppa Pig's Surprise, The Gruffalo and The Tiger Who Came To Tea*.

Visit the website [www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk](http://www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk) for the full list of shows participating.



■ CURTAIN CALL: January is a great month to visit the West End, with bargain deals available for *Miss Saigon*, above, *Wicked*, below, and *Mamma Mia!*, main picture left.



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**Wednesday 6 January, 4–7pm**  
Mary Seacole, Southwood Site, Avery Hill Campus

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# Talk of the town

**G**OODNIGHT Mister Tom is now playing for a strictly limited season at the Duke of York's Theatre in London's West End.

The production will then tour the UK, celebrating the 35th anniversary of Michelle Magorian's much-loved children's classic novel in 2016.

David Wood's Olivier award-winning stage adaptation of the modern classic novel enjoyed great critical acclaim in 2012/13, winning the Olivier Award for Best Entertainment and Family.

David Troughton, who is cur-

## Wartime drama a must-see

rently the voice of Tony Archer on BBC Radio 4's long-running British contemporary rural drama, *The Archers*, takes to the stage as Mister Oakley and is joined by an ensemble cast featuring Clark Devlin, Elisa de Grey, Guy Lewis, Simon Markey, Abigail Matthews, Jane Milligan, Martha Seignior,

James Staddon, Melle Stewart, Georgina Sutton and Hollie Taylor. Six talented young performers have been cast in the key roles of William and Zach. Joe Reynolds, Freddy Hawkins and Alex Taylor-McDowall will alternate the role of William and Sonny Kirby, Harrison Noble and Oliver Loades will alternate as Zach.

The novel *Goodnight Mister Tom* is now a modern classic and is celebrating its 35th anniversary.

Michelle Magorian's wonderfully uplifting tale – which has also featured on the small screen in an ITV drama in recent years – is brought gloriously to life in this magical stage adaptation by David Wood. Set during the dangerous build-up to the Second World War, *Goodnight Mister Tom* follows young William Beech, who is evacuated to the idyllic English countryside and forges a remarkable and heart-warming friendship with the elderly recluse, Tom Oakley.

■ Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2N 4BG. Mon - Sat eves 7.30pm, Wed\*, Thu and Sat mats at 2.30pm. \*Except Wed 20 Jan, Wed 27 Jan, Wed 3 Feb, Wed 10 Feb at 1.30pm. Running time: 2 hours 15 minutes (including interval) Box office 08448717623



■ LEAD ROLE: David Troughton is Mister Oakley



■ CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED: *Goodnight Mister Tom* is delighting audiences.

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## Young stars of future tackle brutal storyline

**A** NEW production of Simon Stephen's dark and disconsolate play *Herons* will open at the Lyric theatre in Hammersmith on January 21.

Some 15 years after its first production, the disturbing and brutal depiction of adolescent violence experienced by 14-year-old Billy will once again grace the London stage, but this time the play, directed by the Lyric's Artistic Director Sean Holmes, will have a significantly different backdrop, writes Nicky Sweetland.

I was given the opportunity to watch a rehearsal and met some of the astonishingly talented young performers.

The lead role of Billy will be played by Max Gill, who impressed as Fat Sam in the Lyric's acclaimed production of *Bugsy Malone* earlier this year. His character is tormented by a gang whose campaign of menace increases as the story unfolds. Under the tutelage of acclaimed director Sean Holmes, the three gang members have had to fully explore their motivations for their brutal actions and have relished the opportunity of working as

part of what is expected to be a monumental production.

Moses Adejimi, Ella McLoughlin and Billy Matthews play the harriers, and although they remained tight lipped about the exact details, they told me a bit about the plot. Moses said: "It's a completely different take on the play. Simply because it was set in a very specific place, Limehouse in London. We're taking that away and setting it in a different universe. Yeah, we're really playing with it."

Billy Matthews plays gang leader Scott, whose brother has committed some horrific crimes in the previous year. The atrocities were witnessed by the father of the play's protagonist and resulted in Scott's brother being sent to prison.

Billy tells me: "The story is basically about a 14-year-old boy called Billy and he lives by this kind of floodgate and industrial water place. A year prior to the play a girl is drowned and hit with rocks and sexually abused."

The third member of the gang is played by Ella McLoughlin, who grew up in Hammersmith and is excited to make her debut at the venue which formed a large part of

her childhood theatrical education. Ella still lives nearby and explained a bit about the type of play audiences can expect.

"It's quite stylised I think. It's definitely nothing like the original. The story is basically about this kid whose dad has seen a terrible thing, or it's implied that he's a witness."

After watching the cast warm up with some hilarious games of Ninja I was able to experience a real masterclass. Director Holmes' guidance of the young actors is just a wonder to observe, with every ounce of dramatic flair extracted from each performer in what is a truly powerful and quite disturbing sequence. I won't spoil any of the setting for you but let's just say, it's certainly going to pack a punch.

Billy summed up his expectations for the production.

"I'm looking forward to the surrealism of it. I think the audience are going to love it. Expect it to be sharp, shocking and slippery."

*Herons* opens on January 21 and runs until February 13 – and is likely to be a production not to be missed. For more information visit the website [lyric.co.uk](http://lyric.co.uk)



# Talk of the town

## Enjoyable comedy of errors

**Peter Pan Goes Wrong \*\*\*\***

**T**HE Mischief Theatre Company have once again found the right (or wrong) formulae with their latest production, which this time sees the group tackle the JM Barrie classic, *Peter Pan*.

Having had roaring success with *The Play That Goes Wrong*, which was recently featured at the Royal Variety Performance, this sequel follows the same form of theatrical mayhem, as we see the original cast reunite to perform yet another disaster-ridden production, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The new play sees the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society take on some even more technically demanding staging with expertly delivered consequences as we see the group attempt to handle the hazards of a revolving stage and some absolutely priceless flying sequences.

Cue costume malfunctions and set collapses in scenes which are often reminiscent of the 1970s slapstick comedy series *Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em*, which starred a young Michael Crawford.

The build-up to each catastrophe makes it perfectly obvious what's going to happen and yet you can't help but guffaw at the misfortune of the poor souls.

As a long time supporter of local theatre, the show particularly appeals to me as I relive some of my own personal stage calamities.

My absolute favourite part was the scene in the nursery prior to the adventure to Neverland where the children discover that in the theatre it takes more than just happy thoughts and fairy dust to make you soar high over the auditorium.

The show is very much an ensemble performance, with the team working as a complete unit in order for the intricate and elaborate mishaps to work with the apparent look of ease, and with the story still being told in an engaging and charming way.

With numerous pantos to tempt you to part with your hard-earned cash this month, this might just be the best alternative and one which I would definitely recommend. The regular Christmas theatregoers will, I'm sure, see some hilarious parallels with the usual Yuletide offerings.

■ **Peter Pan Goes Wrong** runs at the Apollo Theatre until January 31. For more details visit the website [theplaythatgoeswrong.com](http://theplaythatgoeswrong.com)



■ **CRASH, BANG WALLOP:** When *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, everything that can go wrong does go wrong – and the audience are royally entertained.



■ **LEAD ROLE:** Cedric Neal, pictured here in *Porgy and Bess*, plays the part of Berry Gordy.

## Magic of Motown poised to shower West End in a storm of golden hits

**A**S rehearsals begin for the West End production of *Motown the Musical*, full casting has been announced – led by Cedric Neal as Berry Gordy, Lucy St Louis as Diana Ross, Charl Brown as Smokey Robinson and Sifiso Mazibuko as Marvin Gaye.

They are joined by Keisha Amponsa Banson as Mary Wells, Cindy Belliot as Anna Gordy, Samuel Edwards as Jackie Wilson, Tanya Nicole Edwards as Florence Ballard, Portia Harry as Teena Marie, Aisha Jawando as Martha Reeves, Joshua Liburd as Eddie Kendricks,

Simeon Montague as Jermaine Jackson, Cleopatra Rey as Gladys Knight, Brandon Lee Sears as Tito Jackson, Jordan Shaw as Stevie Wonder, Cherelle Williams as Mary Wilson.

Eshan Gopal, 12 years old from Kingsbury, London, 13-year-old Kwame Kandekore from Leicester and 11-year-old Joshua Tikare from Bromley will alternate the role of young Michael Jackson.

They are joined by swings and ensemble members Jay Bryce, Daniel Bailey, Edward Baruwa, Eddie Elliott, Christopher Fry, Alex Hammond, Edward Handoll, Simon Ray Harvey, Elias Hendricks, Brian James Leys, Jayde Nelson, Kieran McGinn, Simone Mistry

Palmer, Carl Spencer and Marcel J Whyte.

With just \$800 borrowed from his family, Motown founder Berry Gordy, goes from featherweight boxer to heavyweight music mogul, discovering and launching the careers of Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, Marvin Gaye and many more.

*Motown the Musical* uncovers the true story of the legendary record label that changed music history and created the soundtrack of a generation.

Featuring a sixteen piece orchestra playing 50 Motown tracks including *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, *I'll Be There*, *Dancing In The Street*, *Stop! In The*

*Name Of Love*, *My Girl* and *I Heard It through the Grapevine*, Charles Randolph-Wright's production tells the story behind the classic hits.

Tony-nominated *Motown the Musical* received its world premiere in April 2013 in New York and recouped its \$18 million investment by the end of 2014. The first US national tour opened to critical acclaim last spring in Chicago, grossing \$20 million dollars during its standing room only 16-week run, and continues to play to packed houses across America.

*Motown the Musical* will open at the Shaftesbury theatre on February 11. For more details visit the website [motownthemusical.co.uk](http://motownthemusical.co.uk)





■ **GIRL POWER:** Cirque du Soleil's stunning new show *Amaluna* opens at the Albert Hall on January 16 for a three-month run of the acclaimed new production. *Amaluna* will mark Cirque du Soleil's 20th year at the Albert Hall. The new show, performed by a cast that is 70 per cent women, is written and directed by Tony Award-winning director Diane Paulus and is Cirque du Soleil's 33rd production. Loosely inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the story takes place on an island governed by goddesses. During a storm, a group of men are washed up on shore. The queen's daughter falls for one of the young men, and the trials of their love are the basis of the storyline.



# Stylish West London spot where you can relax with the stars

WELL known as a haunt of the stars, K West hotel spa offers a luxury oasis right in the heart of London.

Set in Shepherd's Bush, the hotel is just a stone's throw from Westfield London's The Village, where you can treat yourself to some new attire from designers including Chanel, Mulberry, Gucci and Whistles or just enjoy the hustle and bustle from one of the trendy bars or restaurants, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

With its proximity to some of the premier entertainment venues in West London, the hotel is used as a crash pad for bands playing at the O2, Shepherd's Bush Empire and the Hammersmith Apollo and you can often bump into rock stars in the hotel bar and lobby.

If you just want a relaxing break from the metropolis however, this is the place to go, with the hotel housing a luxury spa which was recently named best UK luxury hotel Spa at the World Spa Awards.

I was invited to spend the night in the hotel and was also treated to some indulgence within the luxurious spa facilities.

From the moment you enter the lobby at K West, you get a feeling that you are somewhere very special. The cool urban interior and the general ambience make it the perfect place to take a break from the busy lives we all lead. It's no surprise that so many performers use this as their hotel of choice and when I was shown to my room, one

of the embassy suites, I really felt like a bit of a star myself. With luxury leather sofas and a contemporary design, my suite was bright and clean, and apart from a few wear and tear issues (these rock stars aren't known for their reverence), the room was really quite opulent.

Once I'd settled and had a bite to eat I popped down to the spa to be spoiled by the experts with a compress massage. The professional therapists offer an extensive range of treatments, and will even put together a tailored treatment package designed specifically for your needs, offering expert advice on your individual requirements.

The massage I sampled encompasses herbal compress techniques and offers several potential health benefits including stress relief and improved circulation as well as the carefully selected herbs providing antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties.

As an office based worker, like many people, I hold tension within my shoulders and neck, and so this was the area, which the therapist expertly targeted. I felt unwound and very chilled afterwards and then following a spell in the sumptuous relaxing room I went to experience the spa itself.

Decorated to the very highest specification, the spa offers everything you would expect from a luxury facility and more including London's first Snow Paradise, chilled to -15°C. The cabin is designed to complement the spa's hot-

cold therapy, alternating between steam and ice environments with the sudden and extreme change in temperatures proven to stimulate body circulation and be highly beneficial to your immune system. I loved this cabin, and with real icicles hanging from the ceiling, it felt like an authentic slice of a Scandinavian Winter wonderland.

On the hot side, the Scandinavian Sauna and Steam room gave some welcome warmth after the frozen hollow, while the aroma scented Sanarium with its gentle heat and reduced humidity, left me feeling cleansed and refreshed.

As a true Aquarian though, my favourite part of the spa was the glass paneled hydrotherapy pool, which features stainless steel recliners.

It is set under a ceiling adorned with twinkling lights and following the massage, the warm bubbly water felt like just what I needed.

Although I didn't have the time to experience it, K Spa also offers something different, with their unique Sun Meadow room, designed to give you gentle light therapy to help relieve the symptoms of S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder). The perfect therapy for the long winter nights.

So, for a break from the fast lane, I would highly recommend a stay at the KWest hotel spa. Who knows you might even meet someone famous? I did, but you'll have to keep an eye on my entertainment pages over the next few months to find out who it was.



■ **LUXURIATE:** The hotel K West, in Shepherd's Bush, is an ideal place to relax and unwind.



# WINE & DINE

The food and  
drink page for  
West London

**I**F learning to cook healthy, wholesome meals is number one on your New Year's resolutions list, then help is at hand in the form of Donna Hay – Australia's answer to Delia Smith.

Hay, whose bestselling cookbooks are famously filled with crisp, mouth-watering images, has just published *The New Easy*, which comes with the promise of "simple meal ideas that are big on flavour but low on fuss".

The mum-of-two has managed to incorporate "all the superfood ingredients" – like quinoa, chia seeds and kale – into her recipes, which are split into Weeknights and Weekends, so they're perfect for those who are hoping to get back on the low-calorie wagon after indulging at Christmas.

"Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a bit of overindulging, so there's no need to beat yourself up about it," says 45-year-old Hay, who lost three dress sizes by switching to healthy eating and an exercise regime that includes running and stand-up paddle boarding.

"I'm all about balance though – I know that if I've enjoyed quite a lot of great food and drink over the festive period, then I need to balance it out a bit in the New Year, with a few extra kilometres on my run or a few more salads and meat-free days.

"I don't believe in extreme diets or cutting things out completely – just simply enjoying a great range of food that's fresh, light and packed with vegetables and nutritious foods."

As a busy working mum, Hay knows how tough it can be to cook from scratch during the week, so she's used "lots of great time-saving tricks" in the new cookbook.

"A lot of the sweets are made with a dough or batter you can make in a food processor, or cakes you can make using a simple batter in just one bowl," she says. "My food-processor carrot cake has become one of my go-to desserts.

"In my recipes for weeknights and casual weekends, I've used clever store cupboard ingredients, like store-bought puff pastry to make gorgeous tomato tarts, or caramelised onion relish in a super-easy marinade for lamb.

"There are lots of easy pastas with new flavours and a delicious chicken curry that you can leave to bake in the oven – just really easy but delicious meals."

Hay's foodie career began as a writer and food stylist when she was 19. By 25, she'd become food editor for *Marie Claire*, and in 2001, she launched *Donna Hay* magazine. Another decade on and she'd landed her first TV series and launched a cookware range, which she developed with Royal Doulton.

She's just opened a pop-up shop in Sydney selling her homewares, filming is under way for a new show, and Hay has plans for another cookbook later in 2016.

All these demands on her time have been the driving force "to create cookbooks and recipes that are more about spending time with



■ **EASY DOES IT: Donna Hay focuses on healthy meals for the new year.**

your family and not your kitchen stove".

But exercise is also an extremely important element in her daily routine.

"No matter how busy I am, I always try to make sure I still find time for exercise. Most mornings or evenings I go for a run – it re-

ally helps me relax, de-stress and focus on the things I need," she says.

But when she has time, Hay enjoys nothing better than cooking a relaxed meal for close friends at home, as long as it involves a little of her favourite guilty pleasure...

"I enjoy cooking their favourite dishes for them, and taking the time to all sit down together, preferably outdoors, to chat, share the meal and a few drinks. My perfect meal would usually also involve ice-cream in any form – it's like happiness in a bowl!"

Tempted? Try one of Hay's delicious, easy meals for yourself...

## GOATS CHEESE FRITTATA WITH ROCKET GREMOLATA

(Serves 4)

8 eggs  
250ml single cream  
250ml milk  
80g finely grated Parmesan  
Sea salt and cracked black pepper

200g soft goat's cheese or goat's curd  
2tsp lemon thyme leaves  
For the rocket gremolata:  
90g rocket leaves, shredded  
20g flat-leaf parsley leaves, finely chopped  
1 heaped tbsp finely grated lemon zest  
1 generous tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Preheat oven to 180C. To make the rocket gremolata, place the rocket, parsley, lemon zest and oil in a bowl and stir to combine. Set aside.

Place the eggs, cream, milk, parmesan, salt and pepper in a bowl and whisk to combine. Pour into a 1.5L ovenproof dish. Top the frittata with spoonfuls of goat's cheese and sprinkle with the thyme.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the frittata is almost set. Remove from the oven and stand for five minutes. Cut the frittata into wedges and serve with the gremolata.



## MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

### Grilled veal chop with Jerusalem artichokes, capers and rosemary

*Serves two*

**I**DO love a veal chop, and helpfully, a lot of butchers are now selling ethically reared British veal. You don't have to use a knife and fork for this big chunk of meat – you could just tear it apart with your fingers.

#### Ingredients

1 veal T-bone weighing about 600-700g  
2tbsp vegetable or corn oil  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
200g Jerusalem artichokes, peeled or scrubbed and halved  
A couple of good knobs of butter  
2tbsp capers  
A couple of sprigs of rosemary

#### Method

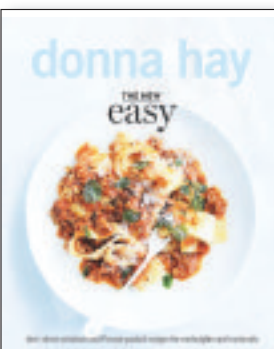
PRE-HEAT the oven to 180C/gas mark 5. Heat a heavy, oven-proof frying pan with a tablespoon of the vegetable oil, put the Jerusalem artichokes in, season and roast in the oven for about 15-20 minutes, turning them every so often until tender.

Meanwhile, heat a ribbed griddle or heavy frying pan, season the veal and brush with oil. Cook for about 6-7 minutes on each side, depending on the thickness, keeping the veal pink. Put the pan of artichokes on a low heat on the stove, add the rosemary, capers and butter and heat through for a couple of minutes.

Transfer the chops to warmed serving plates and spoon the artichokes, rosemary and capers over.



■ **FLAVOURSOME:** Grilled veal chops with Jerusalem artichokes, capers and rosemary.





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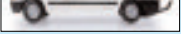
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# Public Notices

Tel: 020 8768 4939

## SECTION 34 LICENSING ACT 2003

### Licensing Act 2003:

#### Full Variation of a Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT NEW LIFE BALANCE LTD has applied to the City of Westminster on 17th December 2015 to vary the premises licence for UNIT A2, INNER BASIN, GATLIFF ROAD, SW1W 8QN.

The proposed variation is to include the sale by retail of alcohol.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by 14th January 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Service, 14th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1.

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at [www.westminster.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/licensing) and following the link to the public register.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

## LICENSING ACT 2003

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT Mr Bijan Behzadi has applied to Westminster City Council on 21st December 2015 to vary the premises licence at 64 Victoria Street, London, W9 2PX so as to increase capacity by 10 persons to a maximum of 50 persons, throughout the premises of 50 persons excluding staff, as more particularly set out in the application.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: Licensing, Westminster City Council, 4th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP to be received by no later than 18th January 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk) or at the above address during office hours. The register can be viewed at the above address during office hours.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for a premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

Thomas & Thomas Partners LLP, 38a Monmouth Street, London WC2H 9EP  
[www.tandtp.com](http://www.tandtp.com)

## Licensing Act 2003

### Application for Major Variation to a Premises Licence

An application has been made by Rosa's London Ltd for a major variation to a premises licence for premises situated at and known as Rosa's, 25 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HN.

The application provides for the following:

To permit a change in layout in accordance with plan number 289.LL.01.

To permit a start time of 10.00 every day for the supply of alcohol.

To permit a finish time of midnight Monday to Saturday and 23.00 on Sundays for supply of alcohol.

To permit a finish time of midnight Monday to Saturday for late night refreshment.

Remove condition 29 to permit consumption of alcohol in the external seating area until 21.00 (part of the demise).

The full application setting out full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the licensing authority at City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP during normal office hours (ring in advance to check). Further information may be available at [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk).

Interested parties can make representations to the Licensing Authority by close of business on 1st February 2016. All representations must be made in writing. It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

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## CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice.

Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.

2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', 'IT' etc. in the advertisement.

3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;

(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or

(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified line and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly and the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.

17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.

18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

## Box Numbers

Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.

Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

## Holiday & Travel Category

All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

## Data Protection

The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors. Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.

Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

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## Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)

**ACT 1990**

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:

#### FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

**92 Hurlingham Road SW6****2015/06001/FUL**

Erection of a two storey rear extension at ground and first floor levels; replacement of all existing single glazed timber sash windows to front elevation with new double glazed timber sash windows; replace existing single glazed timber sash windows to rear elevation at second and third floor levels with new double glazed timber sash windows.

**Palingswood House, 241 Kings Road SW6****2015/05980/ADV**

Display of a non-illuminated fascia sign to the northern boundary wall elevation.

**Kensington Olympia Station****2015/04305/FUL**

Change of use of the former ticket office and news agent into a new Class A1 retail unit and a Class A5 noodle bar (both 24 hours of operation); installation of a new shopfront and an ATM machine to the front elevation of the building; associated external alterations (REVISED DESCRIPTION AND HOURS OF USE PROPOSED)

**324A Goldhawk Road W6****2015/05918/FUL**

Erection of rear and side dormer roof extension; erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; installation of 2no rooflights to rear elevation; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation; installation of a new window to replace the existing garage doors at the front elevation; installation of a new entrance door at ground floor level to the side elevation; replacement of existing windows with new windows to all elevations of the property; conversion of the integral garage into a habitable room; conversion of existing building into 1 x two bedroom and 2 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

**Southcombe Street W14****2015/05928/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension.

**58 Chiddingstone Street SW6****2015/05931/FUL**

Amendments to previously approved planning permission ref: 2014/00384/FUL

**2015/02031/FUL**

2015/02033/FUL to include alterations to the rear lightwell, alterations to the doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation, installation of a retractable canopy at the rear of the property, installation of 2no windows to replace the existing window to the side of rear back addition at first floor level.

**Basement 132****Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6****2015/05990/FUL**

Change of use of the basement from a storage unit (Class B9) to a personal training gym (Class D2).

**Basement 132****Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6****2015/05991/ADV**

Display of a non-illuminated fascia sign on the front elevation above the entrance door.

**88 Goldhawk Road W12****2015/05916/FUL**

Change of use of ground floor and basement from a shop (Class A1) to a Yoga centre (Class D2); alterations to the shopfront including the removal of a door.

**132 Askrift Road W12****2015/05833/FUL**

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; alterations to the external fenestrations at the rear of the property; formation of new external steps from basement to garden level at the rear of the property; associated landscaping and external alterations.

**Flat 16 Lanark Mansions****Pennard Road W12****2015/05628/FUL**

Conversion of no. 16 Lanark Mansions into 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

**1 Minford Gardens W14****2015/05824/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor over part of the main roof; erection of a brick parapet and boarded balustrade wall with a 1.1 metre high metal handrail around the main roof, in connection with its use as a roof terrace and roof garden.

**57 Hammersmith Grove W6****2015/05832/FUL**

Erection of a single storey rear extension and first floor level; erection of a roof terrace above at first floor level; erection of a single storey side extension to replace existing; replacement of external front entrance steps; replacement of front door; replacement of windows to the front elevation at third floor level; replacement of windows to the side elevation; installation of a rooflight at roof level to the side elevation after extending brick wall; installation of solar panels at roof level; replacement of windows to the rear elevation at third floor level; replacement of window and door to the rear elevation at ground floor level; removal of paint from the front and side elevations; replacement of front boundary wall; renewal of pavement and planting in the front garden; removal of balustrade around staircase to cellar in rear garden; erection of a shed in the rear garden after the removal of existing sheds.

**8 Fulham Broadway SW6****2015/06000/FUL**

Erection of a two storey rear extension at second and third floor level; conversion of first, second and third floor level into 3 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

**1 Shepherd's Bush Road W6****2015/06030/FUL**

Retention of the extension to the store within the front garden at lower ground floor level and retention of rooflights in the front, side and rear roof slopes.

**30 Settrington Road SW6****2015/06064/FUL**

Erection of a front roof extension and installation of three dormer windows.

**43 Perrers Road W6****2015/05813/VAR**

Minor material amendment to planning permission ref: 2015/01972/FUL granted 27th August 2015 for the 'Erection of an extension at first floor level, on top of the existing single storey side addition; enlargement of the existing single storey extension at ground floor level to the front of the main building.' Amendments to include relocation of 2no windows at first floor level to the front elevation.

**12 Queensmill Road SW6****2015/05877/FUL**

Conversion of a single family dwelling house into 1no self-contained one bedroom flat and 1no. self-contained two bedroom flat; replacement of existing single glazed timber casement windows with double-glazed PVCu casement windows and replacement of single-glazed timber door to the rear elevation at ground floor level with double-glazed PVCu French doors.

**31 Ashchurch Park Villas W12****2015/05885/FUL**

Erection of two dormer windows on the rear roof slope to replace existing; installation of a rooflight in the front roof slope; installation of a window to replace existing to the side (east) elevation at roof level; and installation of a window to replace existing to the side (west) elevation at roof level.

**Flat 9 Basement****5 Perham Road W14****2015/05748/FUL**

Installation of new access doors to utility room at basement level; installation of new French doors to replace the existing and the erection of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with the formation of a new terrace; alterations to the rear external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property.

**44 Waltham Grove SW6****2015/05817/FUL**

Erection of rear extensions at lower ground, upper ground and first floor level; excavation of part of the front garden in connection with the creation of a new utility room; formation of a roof terrace at upper ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of metal railings at the front of the property.

**324A Goldhawk Road W6****2015/05819/FUL**

Erection of rear and side dormer roof extension; erection of rear extensions at ground and first floor level; installation of 2no rooflights to rear elevation; formation of a roof terrace at first floor level to the rear elevation; installation of a new window to replace the existing garage doors at the front elevation; installation of a new entrance door at ground floor level to the side elevation; replacement of existing windows with new windows to all elevations of the property; conversion of the integral garage into a habitable room; conversion of existing building into 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

**161 Hammersmith Road W6****2015/05843/ADV**

Display of an internally illuminated advertisement panel measuring 2.35 metres high, 1.4 metres wide and 0.2 metres deep on top of the existing planter in front of the office building, following removal of existing advertisement panel.

**Ground Floor****55 Inglethorpe Street SW6****2015/05793/FUL**

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation under the footprint of the building to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; erection of an external staircase from basement to ground floor level at the rear of the property; installation of new doors to replace the existing at ground floor level to the rear elevation; installation of a new window to the side of single storey back addition and replacement of existing window with a new window to the rear elevation at ground floor level.

**24 Rylett Crescent W12****2015/05774/FUL**

Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the ground floor rear back addition following the demolition of the existing conservatory; replacement of windows to the side elevation; installation of new rooflights over the roof of single storey back addition; installation of 2no windows to the side elevation at ground floor level; formation of new external steps in the rear garden.

**19 Ingham Road W12****2015/05999/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a part one, part three storey rear extension at ground, first and second floor level following the demolition of ground and first floor rear extension; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition.

**58 Erconwald Street W12****2015/05710/FUL**

Change of use of a hairdressing salon (Class A1) to a residential dwellinghouse (Class C3); erection of 6no. dormer windows in the main roof; partial bricking up of the shopfront and installation of a door and a window in the front elevation; installation of a door and 2no windows in the side elevation; installation of 1no. window in the rear elevation; erection of a bin store and a bike store at the front of the site; and erection of metal railings and a gate to the front boundary.

**Flat 6 Second Floor****19 Brackenbury Road W6****2015/05624/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level, including the formation of roof terraces to the front and rear elevations at roof level.

**Maitienne First And Second Floors 87 Stanlake Road W12****2015/05803/FUL**

Alterations to the main flat roof involving the erection of a glazed roof structure and the erection of privacy screens; erection of external steps and privacy screens around part of the flat roof at third floor level, in connection with its use as a terrace.

**144 Shepherd's Bush Road W6****2015/05804/FUL**

Installation of a new shopfront to the front and side elevation; installation of an awning to the front elevation; and installation of a new entrance door to the front elevation to replace existing.

**144 Shepherd's Bush Road W6****2015/05805/ADV**

Display of an externally illuminated fascia sign and an externally illuminated projecting sign on the front elevation; display of an externally illuminated fascia sign on the side elevation.

**65 Rostrevor Road SW6****2015/05757/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition in connection with the conversion of the property from a single dwelling house to 2no. two bedroom self contained flats at ground and first floor levels and a studio flat at second floor level.

**Griffin House****161 Hammersmith Road W6****2015/06014/FUL**

Installation of 2no. air-conditioning condenser units at roof level; relocation of 4no. existing air-conditioning condenser units at roof level.

**Hazel House, Myrtle House, Holme House, Holkham House, Burnham House, Royston House, Suffolk House And Norfolk House, Sulgrave Road, W6**

**2015/05734/FUL**

Erection of rear roof extensions, erection of rear extensions at third floor level over part of the existing back additions in connection with the creation of self-contained studio flats and the formation of roof terraces at third floor level on top of each property: Hazel House, Myrtle House, Holme House, Holkham House, Burnham House, Royston House, Suffolk House And Norfolk House.

**Flat Ground Floor****74 Lysia Street SW6****2015/05894/FUL**

Installation of 2no. double-glazed sash windows in the side elevation at ground floor level.

**29 Stokenchurch Street SW6****2015/05950/FUL**

Erection of a dormer window in the rear roof extension to replace existing; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side and rear of the existing back addition; and excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

**Flat 8 First Floor****5 Kinnoul Road W6****2015/06033/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; and erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition.

**205 Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6****2015/06036/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a glazed screen around flat roof at third floor level on top of the existing back addition, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; formation of an enclosed stairwell and access door in the rear part of the main roof to provide access to this roof terrace; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roof slope.

**21 Lower Mall W6****2015/05831/FUL**

Alterations to the main flat roof at roof level to include installation of 6no solar panels, green roofing, creation of hard standing and erection of an external staircase in connection with the formation of a sunken terrace; erection of glass balustrades around part of the main roof at roof level in connection with its use as a terrace.

**43 Brook Grove W6****2015/05908/ADV**

Display of 2 no. non-illuminated advertisement banners measuring 6 metres wide and 8 metres high and at a height of 10 metres from the ground on the front elevation for a temporary period between 1st January 2016 until 1st May 2016.

**1 - 3 Baron's Court Road W14****2015/06077/TEL56**

Submission under Part 16 of schedule 2 to GPDO: upgrade existing telecommunication equipment for use of 4G.

**30 Harwood Road SW6****2015/05939/FUL**

Erection of a front and rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

**115 Etcourt Road SW6****2015/05945/FUL**

Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a two storey rear extension at ground and first floor levels; excavation of the rear garden in connection with the enlargement of the basement. Change of use of basement and ground floors from Class A1 retail to one two bedroom self-contained flat; creation of a two bedroom self-contained flat at first and second floor levels.

**Communication Station****Brigade House 8 Parsons Green****London 2015/06091/TEL56**

Installation of 3no. equipment cabinets with ancillary development at roof level.

**2 Fawart Road SW6****2015/06092/FUL**

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, over part of the existing back addition.

**58 New King's Road SW6****2015/05413/FUL**

Change of use of the first and second floors from restaurant ancillary space (Class A3) into residential (Class C3) provide a three bedroom maisonette; erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of an obscured glazed screen around the flat roof of the proposed second floor extension at third floor level, in connection with its use as a roof terrace; installation of a door in the rear elevation at third floor level to provide access to this roof terrace; erection of an obscured glazed screen around the remainder of the flat roof at second floor level in connection with its use as a roof terrace; and installation of French doors in the rear elevation at second floor level to provide access to this roof terrace.

**48 Racton Road SW6****2015/04827/FR3**

Conversion of property from a single family dwelling house into 1no. two bedroom flat and 1no. three bedroom flat; replacement of all existing windows with double-glazed windows; and removal of chimney from roof of two storey back addition.

**11 Hazlebury Road SW6****2015/06045/FUL**

Erection of a dormer window on the front roof slope; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of existing front lightwell to match with the existing floor level internally in connection with the enlargement of basement; placement of existing window with timber door and erection of metal railings in connection with its use as a balcony at first floor level to front elevation.

**73 Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6****2015/05035/FUL**

Excavation of the rear garden to form a house extension in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

**20 Perrers Road W6****2015/05944/FUL**

Erection of front and rear mansard roof extension.

**49 Bishop's Road SW6****2015/05867/FUL**

Installation of a new dormer comprising of French doors and a Juliet balcony in the side roof slope; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; installation of a new enlarged access gate to replace the existing fronting Ciennel Road elevation.

**131 - 133 Dalling Road W6****2015/05816/FUL**

Refurbishment of the chimney stacks and part walls at roof level.

**40 Armingor Road W12****2015/05050/FUL**

Erection of a rear roof extension.

**32 Rainville Road W6****2015/05969/FUL**

Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing window to the side of the existing single storey back addition; installation of new doors to replace the existing window to the rear of bedroom 2 at ground floor level; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.

**20 Cromwell Grove W6****2015/05981/FUL**

Erection of a side and rear dormer roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; installation of a new door and the erection of railings around the flat roof at second floor level to the rear elevation, in connection with its use as a terrace.

**Flat Third Floor****15 Sinclair Road W14****2015/05317/FUL**

Erection of front and rear mansard roof extensions with a dormer window and French doors with a balcony in the front mansard roof extension and two dormers in the rear mansard roof extension (REVISED DESCRIPTION) Territorial Army Centre White City, South Africa Road W12 2015/05890/TEL56 Installation of 6 pole mounted antennas within GRP shroud at roof level; installation of 2 x 300cm dishes at roof level; installation of a hopped access ladder at roof level and installation of one equipment cabinet together with associated ancillary works.

**1A Macfarlane Road W12****2015/05159/FUL**

I give notice that Ms J Bucciol is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing 2 storey residential building and erection of a replacement three storey plus-basement building comprising of 4 x one bedroom self-contained residential flats.

**14 Finden Road W12****2015/06034/VAR**

I give notice that Mr Keith Hiley is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Variation of Condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning permission reference: 2015/01608/FUL granted 2nd June 2015 and non-material amendment application reference: 2015/04290/NMAT granted 8th September 2015 for the 'Conversion of existing property into 3 x two bedroom and 3 x one bedroom self contained flats, demolition of existing 2 storey rear back additions and the erection of a replacement two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level; excavation of the front, side and rear gardens to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; replacement of all timber sliding sash windows with double glazed units to match existing; erection of external staircases from basement to garden level; installation of 2no rooflights in the main roof slopes; associated landscaping and external alterations.' Amendments to approved drawings to include change from the approved pitched roof of the rear roof extension to a proposed mansard roof.

**40 Bramber Road London W14****9PB 2015/05842/FUL**

I give notice that Mr Meyrick Ferguson is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the front elevation; bricking up of existing window at the side of rear back addition at second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension; installation of French doors to replace the existing window to the rear elevation and installation of a new window to replace the existing door to the side of rear back addition at ground floor level; conversion of the existing building into 1 x one bedroom and 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

**202 North End Road W14****2015/05882/NO**

I give notice that Ms Jan Clark is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Retention of an ATM machine to the front elevation.

**42 Stronsa Road W12****2015/05989/FUL**

I give notice that Mr Brendan Farrell is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a part one, part two storey additional floors at roof level in connection with the formation of a new second and third floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roof slope; installation of a new window to replace the existing windows at first floor level to the rear elevation; conversion of the existing building into 2 x two bedroom and 1 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 25th January 2016. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013****NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13****22 Gowan Avenue SW6****2015/05864/FUL**

I give notice that Mr David Golding is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Material amendment to planning permission reference: 2012/04204/FUL granted 2nd April 2



Email your sports news, reports and pictures to Tony McDonald at [sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk](mailto:sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk)

**LONDON WEEKLY NEWS**

sport

# Self-destruct Hoops keep Jimmy waiting

**S**IX games into his new role as Queens Park Rangers manager and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is still searching for his elusive first victory.

The latest of his two defeats, last Friday's 2-1 home loss to Hull City, was particularly cruel on the Dutchman.

Just when German striker Sebastian Polter seemed to have salvaged a point that R's scarcely deserved with just four minutes left on the clock, Hoops shot themselves in both feet with a calamitous defensive mix-up that gifted the visitors their winner in time added on.

His only other defeat amidst four draws since taking charge on December 12 was at Ipswich Town on Boxing Day, when another injury-time winner left his side pointless.

But it is the Hull horror show that will still haunt Hasselbaink. Trailing to Abel Hernandez's goal just after the hour, Rangers got back into the game courtesy of Polter's goal four minutes from time – a superb header from a pinpoint Matt Phillips cross courtesy of the winger's weaker left foot.

However, R's pressed the self-destruct button in the final minute of normal time. Robert

Green copped most of the fans' criticism on social media but only he and Hall know whether the former England keeper 'called' for the cross that ended up at the feet of Adama Diomande for a simple tap-in.

Hasselbaink said: "I am absolutely gutted with the result but I can't do anything about it now.

"It wasn't a match that we deserved to lose. It wasn't a classic – we matched each other, especially in the first half.

"When they opened the scoring I thought we could have got a free-kick but we didn't. Still you have to defend it properly. They've got good players who can punish you and they did.

## On top

"We came back really well and levelled with a really good goal from Polter – and at that stage we looked like we were going to go on and win, we were the team on top.

"But then it's dangerous as well and the goal was a big misunderstanding and we got punished.

"Rob and Grant are



■ **ROB Green under fire**

both disappointed. They're both competitors and professionals and want to do the right thing. It's unfortunate, it was a pity, but we have to keep on going.

"We have to move on and continue to work hard on the training ground."

Hasselbaink praised summer signing Polter, who notched his second goal in as many games, commenting: "Everyone talks about Charlie (Austin) not being available but he is injured and that is that."

If anyone can help to develop Polter's attacking prowess, it is the former Chelsea and Holland centre-forward now in charge.

"Sebastian is by no means the finished article – yes, there are a lot of improvements he can make – but he gives us an outlet, works hard for the team and has now scored two goals in as many games," says Hasselbaink.

"With hard work on the training ground, which he shows, he will get better



## LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

and better for us."

Austin's persistent calf problem is becoming an increasing concern. The talismanic No.9 hasn't played since netting a late brace as a substitute in the home 2-2 draw against Brighton on December 15, Hasselbaink's second game at the helm.

## Seventh attempt

Hasselbaink will be looking to chalk up his first victory at the seventh attempt when Rangers visit Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup third round on Saturday.

## ■ QPR Under-18s briefly put aside their woeful league form to push Manchester United all the way in the FA Youth Cup third round tie before eventually going down 2-1 after extra-time.

"It was a good experience," U18s skipper Tom Matthews told [www.qpr.co.uk](http://www.qpr.co.uk). "It was tough, mentally demanding but I think everyone coped with it really well.

"We challenged ourselves to a team who are very capable and I think everyone should be really proud of themselves. They gave their all.

"Nobody gave up and everybody pushed until the final whistle, even in extra-time."

Callum Whelan's close-range finish

broke R's resistance at Leigh Sports Village midway through the second half, only for substitute Ody Alfa to haul Rangers level late on.

Paul Furlong's side threatened to snatch victory at the end of normal time but were ultimately undone in extra-time as Marcus Rashford's 93rd-minute penalty proved the clincher.

A lowly ninth in Professional Development League Two (South), Furlong's young R's approached the tie as huge underdogs against a United side that has won the competition a record-breaking 10 times.

There seemed no hope for a Hoops side who lost 11 of their 17 matches in the first half of this season, including very heavy defeats of 9-0 (against Charlton Athletic), 9-2 (Leeds United) and 8-1 (Colchester United).

But Matthews insists the performance against United proves they're better than their league position suggests.

"We know the ability we've got in our team," he said. "We know what we can do.

"Obviously results haven't shown that recently but we've got good players and a good team spirit, and that showed against United."



■ **NEW Chelsea interim manager Guus Hiddink at Crystal Palace on Sunday**

# Guus believes in Blues' quality

## ■ From back page

"I know there is a lot of quality in this squad, not just the starting 11, some youngsters too.

"When a team is not doing well, it's human nature to look for security and that is why we emphasised good, hard work, tactically in a defensive way. That means I don't like to see a team drop back very far, in order to seek false security, but to look forward and to see the ball as soon as possible. When they get the ball, they know how to play."

Echoing Mourinho's thoughts that new players are not needed in January, Hiddink said: "We don't need to add to the quality of players, they are blessed by nature with big quality, but they have to know that once things are going not as we wish, we have to look for the causes.

"That is why we started working, with the very talented players, on them doing what I would call 'to invest in the dirty work' and not just the beautiful game. Because this league is very demanding and if you think you can do it just on your quality, given by nature, then this league will kill you."

One man restored to the Chelsea side by Hiddink, John Obi Mikel, is a relic of his previous stint at Chelsea in 2009 and is now in his 10th season at Stamford Bridge.

Hiddink credits the Nigeria midfielder as a key component in the team's improvement.

"He played very well and also at Old Trafford (where Chelsea earned a 0-0

draw on December 29). I think he is the ideal player to give balance to the team.

"If the team is not willing to defend well or have the right balance, then you concede a lot of goals. I thought John Obi can be one of the key figures in getting back the balance.

"He can recover very easily, he reads the game very well, he has the radar. He knows where the strength of the opponent is and how to cope with that. He has a very good eye, and nose, to recover.

"He does not do it in a brutal way, he is very elegant, which I like to see very much. He defends beautifully.

He does not lose many balls, he is good in the short passing. I don't expect him to give the decisive final pass, although he can, but let the other players do that."

Other players who previously have underperformed appear to have discovered a new lease of life under Hiddink – Diego Costa and Cesc Fabregas in particular. What has the Dutchman made of these two important cogs of the team, who combined brilliantly to set up Oscar for the opening goal at Palace?

"I don't give any guarantees about Costa's attitude," concedes Hiddink. "Because everyone has their temperament and sometimes you can lose your temper. But I don't have long conversations with him. I tell him, 'If you try to exclude many influences and to be focused on what you are very good at, and not waste energy on silly things, then you will get what you want.

"Fabregas has performed as we like to see him. He is good in the short passing too, very smart in the final pass."

Willian and Oscar also get a favourable mention from Hiddink as he attempts to raise players' confidence.

"Willian and Oscar are working hard," he said. "Oscar is tackling a bit too. Sometimes they go over the top a bit in tackling, they don't know how to do it, but the attitude is OK. This allows their quality to come through. In the past half year, the efficiency of this quality was very low."

"We talked about this in training, although it was not a big conversation. But with a team of this quality, they must produce. If they do that, then we can enjoy how we can play."

## FOOTBALL FIXTURES

**Saturday, January 9**

Nottingham Forest v QPR (FAC 3), 3.00

Sheffield Wednesday v FULHAM (FAC 3), 3.00

**Sunday, January 10**

CHELSEA v Scunthorpe United (FAC 3), 2.00

**Tuesday, January 12**

Blackburn Rovers v QPR, 7.45

Wolverhampton Wanderers v FULHAM, 7.45

**Wednesday, January 13**

CHELSEA v West Bromwich Albion, 7.45

## ■ From back page

His first taste of management came with his former club Partizan, who he led to consecutive league and cup doubles – a feat never before achieved in the club's history. After leaving Belgrade, he replaced Robbie Fowler at Thai outfit Muangthong United in 2012 and immediately led them to the league title without losing a game.

Short spells at Levski Sofia and Hercules followed, before he was appointed head coach of Watford in October 2014. He went on to lead the Hornets to promotion to the Premier League at the first time of asking – they were only denied the Championship title on the final day.

After leaving Watford following a contract dispute in the summer he took up a similar role at Maccabi Tel Aviv, where he guided the Israelis to the group stages of the Champions League for the first time in 11 years.

His experience as a player and manager suggest he has the credentials to succeed at Fulham, who waited

the best part of two months since sacking Kit Symons before confirming the appointment that has reportedly cost a compensation fee of £367,000 to Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Fulham chairman Shahid Khan spoke at length to the club's official website at [www.fulham.co.uk](http://www.fulham.co.uk) about the long-awaited appointment that was confirmed on December 27, with Whites languishing 18th in the table. "To say that Slavisa came prepared during the interview process would be an understatement. His analysis of our club was impressive and his ideas were just what we wanted to hear. I'm confident that Slavisa will reverse our fortunes and bring to Fulham a winning mindset through the second half of the season and beyond.

"All we need to remember is Slavisa has promoted a club from the Championship to the Premier League and has managed sides at the highest level of football. Slavisa is exactly the head coach we need.

"I believe the term 'head coach' has been

misunderstood, although not by Slavisa, nor nearly every one of the other candidates we interviewed. Slavisa avidly embraces the concept of head coach, which is to be on the pitch, training, organising, planning and everything that comes in preparing for and leading the club on match day.

"This doesn't mean he will have no say in player recruitment or squad assembly for the first team – he most certainly will, working with chief football officer Mike Rigg and his staff to ensure the best we possibly can that Fulham will field a starting XI that Slavisa will choose on match days and feels will be capable of winning. The concept of head coach simply means being hyperfocused on the pitch and team performance.

"But please be assured, Slavisa will collaborate closely with Mike and his staff, as anyone would under the classic definition of manager. I know that Slavisa and Mike will mesh well as we turn the page on 2015."



# SPORT

Thursday, January 7, 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

## Hiddink brings new mentality

**T**HIBAUT Courtois is abdicating himself from any personal responsibility for Chelsea's decline this season and the sacking of Jose Mourinho – he has been out of the side for three months due to injury – but he firmly believes that a change of mentality from the players has brought about a revival of sorts.

Belgium goalkeeper Courtois suffered a knee injury against Everton in September and has just returned to action for Blues, and was instrumental in the west Londoners' 3-0 victory at capital rivals Crystal Palace on Sunday.

"In the last weeks we have played some good football but sometimes we didn't get the result," said the 23-year-old.

"Against Crystal Palace there was the result and good football, so it was a good game. Obviously we can't forget that Palace played without Connor Wickham, Yannick Bolasie or Yohan Cabaye but we

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**  
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

had a very good performance and we can look ahead to the next week with a lot of confidence." Following Mourinho's dismissal, Chelsea have won twice and drawn twice. New interim boss Guus Hiddink can be relieved that the win at Selhurst Park was his first in charge.

But Courtois knows, as do the fans, that wins are vital. Blues are placed 14th, six points above Newcastle United, who occupy third from bottom spot in the Premier League.

### Have to win

"Just getting draws doesn't help, we have to win as well," said the stopper. "So that's why the victory was important. We have the FA Cup (against Scunthorpe United) on Sunday, then West Bromwich Albion and Everton at home – two games we should win as well." As is often the case, a change of manager heralds

improved results – so was Mourinho the problem?

"In football it is always like that – when results are not good the first one to go is the manager but it's not only the manager, players have to take responsibility as well," continued

Courtois. "We were the ones not playing as well."

"Of course, with a new manager some things change. Maybe with some players the mentality changed. We picked up some good results, played good football and then it goes again. We are still the same team that last year were the champions with Mourinho, so I don't think it's (all about) the change."

So has there been a shift in mentality?

"It's difficult to explain," admits Courtois. "It's something psychological. Sometimes it happens with little changes. Maybe we needed a change to pick up our level again, I don't know. I was out of the team for three months, so it was hard to say there was a problem in that time. I was just out of everything."

What has Dutch coach Hiddink brought to the table that has fired up the players?

"Of course he has said some things that he wants us to do, different aspects of the game. The training is



■ OSCAR getting stuck in during Sunday's emphatic win at Crystal Palace Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South



## This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

different as well. Sometimes it's his approach in how he wants us to train, maybe it's a bit more or less tactical. There are different types of little games we play, or more shooting on goal to give confidence to the strikers.

"Sometimes he is more outside of training, more observing. He leaves training to Steve Holland and Eddie Newton and he just puts in when he thinks: 'I need to explain this to the team or that to the team'. When he explains, he explains it well. Every manager has his way of working."

But how much are the players to blame for Mourinho's sacking, and are they playing for their futures too?

"Yes, of course. We know we are responsible as well. We had team meetings where we said the same, 'OK, the manager has gone, but we are responsible as well... we need to pick up our level because we are not playing good enough for a Chelsea player'. Now we are stepping up our game and that's good."

So can the season end successfully?

"Obviously, if you win the FA Cup or Champions League, it will be a positive. Maybe 'success' is a big word after not playing well until the last three or four games. But with the FA Cup or the Champions League it could still be a positive season and also if we end up in the top four or top six."

### Step by step

"We have to go step by step. Some teams are close to each other and if we win against West Brom or Everton we could be eighth or ninth in a few weeks. Everything can go very fast, we just need to have the results."

"We have to see. You know how it goes in the FA Cup – we can play any team. First we have Scunthorpe and we have to be prepared. It will be a hard game, there are no easy matches in England. After that you don't know who you're going to get. You could play the smaller teams and only face a big one in the final. But you can also be eliminated, like we were against Bradford City last year."

"The FA Cup can go very fast. But hopefully we can win it and then the Champions League, you never know."

**GUUS Hiddink is reluctant to speak about what caused Roman Abramovich to sack Jose Mourinho and reappoint him, albeit until the end of the season.**

The Dutchman is very politically astute and has taken a stance that what matters now is looking forward. But the causes of Mourinho's demise are still firmly in his thoughts, if not his words.

What changes has he made since coming back to SW6?

"I've only been here for just three games," said the 69-year-old.

■ Continued on page 27



## Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

## New manager needs time

**N**EW Fulham head coach Slaviša Jokanović knows it will take time to implement his style of football on the team.

Wrapped in a woolen black and white scarf, the smart suited, 47-year-old Serbian saw Fulham lose 1-0 against Sheffield Wednesday in his first game in charge at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Despite enjoying more than 70 per cent possession, Whites were beaten by a stunning long-range strike by Ross Wallace just before the half-hour mark.

Coming just four days after a resounding 4-1 home victory over struggling Rotherham United, which Jokanovic watched from the stands, this latest result leaves them in 19th place, six points and three places clear of the Championship drop zone.

Even so, players and supporters alike are pleased that the west London club has finally appointed a man with a proven track record in English football's second tier, where he led Watford to promotion last season.

"It's normal I'm disappointed with the result," Jokanovic said afterwards. "We played 60

minutes of very good football but they scored a fantastic goal. It's frustrating but I'm not David Copperfield, I cannot fix problems, we have to try and find the right way for us."

"You need to find the balance between attack and defence. We had 71 per cent possession but didn't make enough dangerous situations. We're a very good team with the ball but we need to improve without it."

### Messages on social media

"I'm very happy, I'm very excited," he said.

"Many Fulham fans have sent me messages on social media and I know they believe I can help them. They have accepted my appointment and I'm going to work hard. It was a disappointing day for me because we didn't win any points but it's exciting."

Fulham are presented with a chance to exact immediate revenge when they face Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough in the third round of the FA Cup on Saturday.

"This is not the time for talking about promotion, we need to be realistic," he added. "The simple thing for us is thinking about the

next step and for us that's Sheffield Wednesday in the FA Cup."

"We need to be brave, be strong and work hard. I need a little bit of time, I'm not a magic guy. But my team will soon start to understand my way, my philosophy and things will be better as we try to improve."

So what do we know about the man who spent two years as a player with Chelsea between 2000 and 2002?

As a young player in his native Serbia – or Yugoslavia as it was then known – Jokanovic enjoyed success at FK Vojvodina and Partizan Belgrade before signing for Spanish club Real Oviedo in 1993, followed by Tenerife in the summer of 1995. In 2000 he helped Deportivo de la Coruna to their first-ever La Liga title.

Chelsea then signed him for £1.7m, making more than 50 appearances across two seasons. After leaving Stamford Bridge, he finished his career at Spanish Segunda B outfit Murcia.

Known primarily as a defensive midfielder, Jokanovic is one of Yugoslavia/Serbia's most-capped players, having represented his country on 64 occasions, scoring 10 goals.

■ Continued on page 27